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Title: Risk factors for severe bronchiolitis – A retrospective study

Prof. Dr Doina Anca 16675 Plesca doinaplesca@yahoo.com MD ¹, Dr. Felicia 16676 Cora fici55@yahoo.com MD ¹, Dr. Eugenia 16677 Buzoianu eugeniabuzoianu@yahoo.com MD ¹, Dr. Mariana 16678 Moiceanu marianamoiceanu@yahoo.com MD ¹ and Dr. Victoria 16679 Hurduc v_hurduc@yahoo.com MD ¹. ¹ Pediatrics, Children's Hospital "Dr.Victor Gomoiu", Bucharest, Romania .

Body: INTRODUCTION: Bronchiolitis is a common disease in children under 2 years old causing ER presentation and sometimes admission. Severity of bronchiolitis (do to acute respiratory failure) accounts for admission criteria. Children with one or more risk factors for severe bronchiolitis (prematurity, dysmaturity, environmental factors, neurological disease, cardiac disease, airways anomalies, immune deficiency, chronic lung disease, age under 3 months, formula feeding, RSV infection) are among those usually admitted. OBJECTIVES: To reveal the correlation between admissions do to bronchiolitis and the presence of the risk factors. METHODS: A retrospective study was conducted, including 96 children under 2 years old, admitted in our hospital between November 2011 and January 2012. The admission criteria were Wang severity score for bronchiolitis (over 6). We have correlated the hospitalization lasting more than 5 days and/or the Wang score for severity over 10 with the number of risk factors. RESULTS: All 96 children admitted had at least one risk factor for severe bronchiolitis. Children with Wang score over 10 and hospitalization lasting more than 5 days (34 children) associated at least 2 risk factors, most frequent of them being crowded living condition (94%), male sex (73,5%), prematurity (50%), age under 3 months (47%) and other comorbidities (29%). CONCLUSION: Severity of bronchiolitis correlates with number of risk factors that coexist for the same child.