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Title: Tuberculosis in children of Belarus

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Body: Introduction: Children with tuberculosis (TB) are markers of recent disease transmission usually from infectious adults. They provide a reservoir of disease for the future. The purpose of this research was studying the incidence of TB among the child population of Belarus during the period 2007-2011. The 497 cases of pulmonary TB in children have been examined. Material and methods Data of the state TB reports of Belarus for 2007-2011 is used. The incidence of TB has been assessed (rates per 100000 of population). The tuberculin skin tests, BCG vaccination, risk of infection (family contact) and risk of progression to disease in 497 children with pulmonary TB have been studied. The analyzed group included 285 children with pulmonary TB from family contacts and 212 children from the healthy environment in the age of 0-19 years. Student's t-test, χ^2 -criterion, z - criterion were applied in the statistical analysis. The significance level was set at 0,05. Results: High incidence of TB has been traced in children from family contacts with multidrug-resistant TB (see the diagram below).

Children from family contacts fell ill at earlier age than children from healthy environment (p=0,016). In predominant number of cases TB in children and their parents were registered in families with a low income (p=0,000). Conclusion: Increasing drug resistance and the emergence of highly resistant organisms (multidrug-resistant TB) threaten TB control efforts in Belarus.