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**Title:** Intracellular cytokine and cathelicidin secretion from monocytes and neutrophils in childhood lung tuberculosis and its relationship with vitamin D levels

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**Body:** Introduction: Vitamin D3 contributes to host immune responses against Mycobacterium tuberculosis through antimicrobial peptide human CAP 18+ (cathelicidin). We aim to identify the intracelluler cytocine and cathelicidine secretion from monocytes and neutrophils of active TB in children. Material- methods: Fifteen TB patients and 15 healthy children were enrolled to the study. Patients' biochemical parametres and 25 hydroxyvitamin D were measured. The expression of human cathelicidin, TNF  $\alpha$ , IF- $\gamma$  and IL-8 from monocytes and neutrophils were analyzed by flow cytometry method in the serum. Results: The expression of IL-8 and cathelicidin from CD14 + monocytes were significantly higher in TB patients (p=0.0001).

There was no difference in IL-8 and cathelicidin expression in CD 15+ neutrophils in both groups in the appropriate concentrations of vitamin D. The expression of TNF  $\alpha$  and IF- $\gamma$  from CD14 + monocytes and CD 15+ neutrophils, in both study and control groups revealed no statistical difference.