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Title: Particularities of tuberculosis in children aged 0-3 years

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Body: Background: Tuberculosis (TB) affects different ages, but more danger are for children aged under 3 years. Namely for this age is specific rapid spread of TB process, diverse forms of TB, individual response. Aim: To evaluate the clinical evolution of tuberculosis in children aged 0-3 years and to evaluate risk factors for TB among this children. Methods: This retrospective study included 169 children < 3 years suffering from tuberculosis, who were admitted to the Phthysiopneumology Hospital from Chisinau during a period of 5 years (2006-2010). Results: Predominant method for detecting active TB in children aged 0-3 year was prophylactic control in 72,19% cases, namely examining contact with TB patients (89,3%). Through address are detected primarily patients with clinically manifest and advanced forms of the disease, complicated by dissemination, destruction, pleural effusion, atelectasis, ganglio-bronchial fistulas – 31,9%, which speaks of late detection. The highest share of TB has been registered between 2-3 age old (85,2%). In most children (75,7%) was diagnosed tuberculosis of intrathoracic lymph nodes. The source of infection was disclosed only in 126 (74,5%) patients. Risk factors for tuberculosis in children was: unsatisfactory living conditions, contact with TB patients, concomitant diseases, incomplete families, parents who abuse alcohol, orphanages, poor quality vaccination or non-vaccination BCG, chemoprophylaxis irregular. Conclusions: Control of TB in children requires identification and treatment of all sources of TB among adults. Knowledge on the factors that influences TB in children is of utmost importance to evaluate transmission in communities and to adjust TB control activities.