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Title: Detection of tuberculosis in children

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Body: Background: The detection of childhood TB remains a major challenge of TB control. Aim: to evaluate methods of TB case detection in children and analysis of risk factors in childhood tuberculosis in Chisinau. Materials and methods: This was a retrospective study (1994-2008) of 788 subjects (0-14 year olds) with confirmed TB. The discriminate analysis has been applied to determine the risc factors for TB in children. Results: 594 (75,4%) children were diagnosed through active case finding and 194 (24,6%) have been diagnosed through passive case finding. It has been assed that out of 594 children detected through active case finding by applying Mantoux 2TU testing 267 (45,0%) have been diagnosed through systematic household contact investigation; 223 (37,5%) have been diagnosed after primary examination of contacts with TB patients; 93 (15,7%) of children have been registered as a result of screening of high-risk groups and 11 (1,8%) of cildren have been detected through the tuberculin skin test applied before BCG revaccination. Advanced forms of tuberculosis with complications were more frequently detected in the cases where the patients consulted the doctor $33,5 \pm 7,2\%$, $p < 0,05$. The discriminate analysis showed that the highest canonic correlation of risk factors is the following: contacts with TB patients; unsatisfactory life conditions; associated diseases; irregular administration of chemoprophylaxis; incomplete families; lack of vaccination or low quality of BCG vaccination. Conclusions: To improve early detection of TB in children it is necessary to increase awareness in family doctors and physicians; increase knowledge on TB symptoms which can take the mask of other diseases and ensuring timely examination of risk groups.