Title: Prevention of RSV infection in infants from the high-risk groups in Moscow: The first season's results

Dmitriy 1144 Ovsyannikov mdovsyannikov@yahoo.com MD ¹, Irina 1163 Krsheminskaya spatira1@list.ru MD ¹ and Elena 1164 Degtyareva dib6@yandex.ru MD ². ¹ Medical Faculty, People's Friendship University of Russia, Moscow, Russian Federation and ² Pulmonology Department, Children's Infectious Diseases Hospital No. 6, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Body: AIM: analysis of efficacy and safety of immunization with palivizumab of infants from the high-risk groups of severe respiratory syncytial viral (RSV) infection carried out during 2012 infection season in Moscow. METHODS AND MATERIALS: Immunization against RSV infection with palivizumab was conducted for the first time in six Moscow hospitals from January to May 2012. The total number of infants immunized was 156 aged from 15 days to 1 year 11 months. Patients received from 1 to 4 shots with treatment-free interval 30±5 days: 1 infant was immunized four times, 139 – three times, 9 children – twice, 7 children – once. The reasons for discontinuation of immunization after 1 and 2 shots were not connected to medical conditions. 139 (89,1%) of all infants were premature, including 42 (26,92%) - with extremely low birth weight, 83 (53,21%) - with bronchopulmonary disease, 19 (12,18%) - with congenital heart diseases. Efficacy of immunization was estimated on a basis of the average monthly frequency of lower respiratory tract infections and hospitalization within three months ahead and three months during prophylaxis. A frequency of adverse events was used for safety analysis. RESULTS: Immunization with palivizumab led to decrease of the average monthly frequency of lower respiratory tract infections (from 0,064 to 0,014) and hospitalization (from 0,048 to 0,01). The following adverse events were reported: short-term, low-grade fever, anxiety, rhinitis, upper respiratory tract infection, gastroenteritis. There were no serious adverse events reported during prophylaxis. CONCLUSIONS: Prophylaxis of RSV infection with palivizumab in infants from the high-risk groups is safe and effective.