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Title: Structure of the morbidity of tuberculosis in BCG-vaccinated children in Bulgaria

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Body: Background: Bulgaria and Hong Kong are the countries applied BCG-vaccination since 1951. The Immunization Programme in Bulgaria includes BCG-vaccination of all newborns and three re-vaccinations at 7, 11 and 17 years of age after negative TST. The aim of the study is to investigate the structure of morbidity of primary tuberculosis in BCG-vaccinated children. Methods: This is retrospective analysis of the structure of tuberculosis morbidity among the children cured for TB in University Clinic for Respiratory Diseases in children at Medical University – Sofia. A total of 800 children diagnosed with tuberculosis for the period 2007-2011 were examined. Results: The large part of the children, 608 (76.4%), were with tuberculosis of intrathoracic lymph nodes, on the second place were the children with tuberculosis pleurisy – 58 (7.3%), followed by tuberculosis infiltrate in the lungs – 57 (7.2%), and the children with primary TB complex of the lungs – 41 (5.2%). Miliary tuberculosis was diagnosed only in 12 children (1.5%) and TB meningitis – in 8 children (1%). M. tuberculosis was confirmed by positive cultures in 117 children (14.2%). Most children with miliary tuberculosis and tuberculosis meningitis had a history of close contact with family member with active TB infection.