

COMMUNITY PNEUMONIA IN HOSPITALIZED CHILDREN

Artemona Yzeiri¹, Enkelejda Shkurti^{2*}, Diamant Shtiza²

¹Regional Hospital of Fier
^{2*}University of Medicine, Tirana, Albania

*Corresponding Author Enkelejda Shkurti, e-mail: enkeleda.shkurti@umed.edu.al;

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ABSTRACT

Background: Community acquired pneumonia (CAP) is defined as symptoms of an acute infection of pulmonary parenchyma in an individual which is infected in community and is distinguished from hospitalized pneumonia. *Aim:* To evaluate the epidemiological and clinical characteristics of hospitalized children with community-acquired pneumonia. *Results:* The average age of children was 5.9 (± 5.3) years old that varies from six months to 13 years old. 57% of the children were males and 42.5% females. Clinical presentation of pneumonia was easy stage in 33.3% of cases, average in 48.3% and heavy in 18.4% of them. In relation with clinical symptoms according to age group it was found a statistical significance for diarrhea ($p=0.03$) and dyspnea ($p=0.02$) which prevail under 2 years old in 53.8% and 61.5% respectively. *Conclusions:* The diagnosis of pneumonia should take into account infants and children with respiratory symptoms, especially cough, tachypnea, emphasis and abnormal pulmonary examination. The diagnosis should be decided in base of the clinic of the children with fever, and evidence of an infective process with respiratory distress.

Key words: pneumonia, community, children.