

Abstract Preview - Step 3/4

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Topic: Clinical epidemiology

Title: EPIDEMIOLOGY OF PERTUSSIS IN A TERTIARY PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL IN ATHENS, 2010-2012.

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Text: **Background and aims:** Pertussis is a fairly common often unrecognized endemic infection worldwide. Aim was to describe the epidemiology of pertussis cases hospitalized in a major tertiary hospital in Athens.

Methods: Records of pertussis cases were reviewed retrospectively in children hospitalized to the Infectious Diseases Unit of Aghia Sophia Children's Hospital in the period 2010-2012. The diagnosis of all cases was confirmed by Multiplex Real Time PCR (Light Cycler 2.0 Roche) Insertion Sequence 481 and 1001.

Results: Totally, 123 cases (52, 31 and 40 in each year respectively) were reviewed of which 7 (5.7%) had confirmed parapertussis. Girls were more affected with a male-to-female ratio of 0.84:1. Mean age was 5.6±13.3 months with 89.7% ≤6 m.o. (42.2% ≤2 m.o.). A substantial 61.2% belonged to special subpopulation groups (37.9% were Greek Roma and 23.3% were immigrants). The vaccination status was known in 112/116 (96.6%) cases. Of these 101 (90.1%) were unvaccinated, 6 (5.4%) were vaccinated with 1 dose, 4 (3.6%) with 2 doses and 1 (0.9%) with 4 doses. The outcome was favourable in all patients; no death was recorded.

Conclusions: Despite the existence of DTaP vaccines in the National Immunization Programme cases of pertussis still occur. The majority of them concern young infants who are either unvaccinated or too young for vaccination while the incidence is higher in subpopulation groups as the Roma minority. This highlights the need of increased awareness of circulation of the bacteria in adults and strengthening systematic access and vaccination of sensitive susceptible population groups.

Author Keywords: pertussis, epidemiology, vaccination, Roma minority, immigrants

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