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Changes in quality of life of children with bronchitis at early childhood

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Objective: As we know respiratory tract infections, such as bronchitis, are not only more frequent but also more severe among children at early childhood. The aim of this research was to reveal an impact of chronic bronchitis on the quality of life QL total score, as well as on different subscales of QL.

Material & Methods: The subject of the research were early aged children (3months-3years old) selected from “Mouratsan” Children Hospital in Yerevan. In this retrospective case-control study were included 400 children of 0-3 years old. 64 infants with bronchitis were formed case and other children control groups. QUALIN international questionnaire was used to assess QL of early aged children. QUALIN consists of 34 questions and comprises four subscales: Behavior and communication; Ability to stay alone; Family environment; Neuropsychological development and physical health. The overall grade of the quality of life is given by means scores. Mean scores are calculated based on a 5-point response scale for each item, in which a higher score representing better quality of life. Parents and pediatricians of enrolled children filled in an agreement questionnaire with compliance to participate in the research.

Results & Discussion: The studied population's 49,0% were boys and 51,0% - girls, the majority of which were born from the first pregnancy. In case group loss of QL total score were 40% in control group 32%. Among children with bronchitis 64.1% were boys and 35.9% - girls. In case group most affected subscales were “Ability to stay alone” (2.8 ± 0.02) (in control group were 3.1 ± 0.04) and “Neuropsychological development and physical health” (2.9 ± 0.02) (in control group were 3.2 ± 0.04) ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusion: This study has demonstrated relationship between quality of life and bronchitis ($p < 0.001$). In case of bronchitis most affected subscales were “Ability to stay alone” and “Neuropsychological development and physical health”.

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