The influence of socio-economic factors on the presence of acute gastroenteritis in children with Roma and non-Roma origin

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Abstract

Acute gastroenteritis is the second most common childhood disease. Socio-economic factors have a major impact on the incidence, duration and severity of the clinical picture of AGE. In the most of undeveloped and developing countries, among which R Macedonia is, due to poor hygiene, lack of clean drinking water, low degree of parents health education and poverty, the incidence of AGE has increased.

The aim of the paper is to demonstrate whether socioeconomic factors have influence on incidence of acute gastroenteritis among Roma and non-Roma children. This paper include all children who were hospitalized at the Children's department Clinical hospital Stip with diagnosis of acute gastroenteritis in the period from 01.01.2015 to 31.12.2017. A comparison was made of the number of children with AGE of Roma and non-Roma nationality in order to see if the socio-economic conditions which are worse among the Roma population, have an effect on increasing the incidence of AEG in these children.

From 01.01.2015 to 31.12.2017, 470 children with AGE were hospitalized. Among them, Roma children with AGE are 107 and non-Roma children with AGE are 363 patients. Roma children are with a greater number of hospitalizations in the summer, and AGE is more likely bacterial. AGE throughout the year is less likely to be found in Roma children, which is associated with longer breastfeeding of Roma children, the frequent exposure to antigens associated with living conditions leading to immunity. The greater frequency in the summer period is associated with the consumption of food of suspicious origin and the rarity of prevalence in winter and spring is associated with the lack of preschool and school facilities.

Key words:socio-economic factors, incidence, acute gastroenteritis, Roma children