

## IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL BRONCHIOLITIS MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

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**Introduction:** Polish guidelines on bronchiolitis management in children discourage from use of inhaled/systemic steroids or betamimetics. The aim of this study was to retrospectively assess adherence to the guidelines, its impact on frequency of complications and drug costs.

**Material and methods:** In 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 RSV seasons 142 children aged 14 days-19 months (median 2 months) were hospitalized due to bronchiolitis. Adherence to the guidelines was validated in terms of patient's baseline characteristics and outcome, i.e. ICU transfer, length of hospitalization, need for antibiotic treatment.

**Results:** Guidelines were strictly followed only in 19% of patients (14% and 25% in consecutive seasons). Adherence to the guidelines (i.e., refraining from additional therapeutics) did not result in higher risk of complications, ICU transfer or antibiotic treatment, even though baseline characteristics in group treated according to the guidelines concerning oxygen blood saturation (89.7% vs. 92%) in capillary gasometry were worse. Similarly, lack of steroid therapy in patients with initially worse pH and pCO<sub>2</sub> (7.41 vs. 7.43, and 37.3 vs 35.4, respectively) did not correlate with worse outcome. The reduction of drug costs was 40.5% (from 27.5 to 16.3 euro per patient).

**Conclusions:** This study shows that adherence to the guidelines is still low, but it should be promoted, because it reduces costs with no harm to the patients.

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