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Infectious diseases in children <7 y-old attended in a clinic of Leticia, Amazonas, Colombia, 2014

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Background: In tropical regions, non-tropical infectious diseases (ID) are highly relevant and prevalent. In the case of Colombia, most studies in the Amazon department (capital Leticia), have been focused in tropical disease such as malaria, leishmaniasis and yellow fever. Nevertheless other ID are still relevant. In this study we analyzed data from the largest clinic in Leticia attending children <7 y-old.

Material/methods: During January-December 2014, 24,516 children <7 y-old were attended at our Clinic. Clinical and laboratory specific ID tests were performed according each case at the microbiology laboratory. In these children, fever was a common cause of consultation.

Results: The mean age was 3.92 y-old (range 0.031-6.353; 0.1% were <6 months; 2.2% <1 y-old), 50.6% were male and 49.4% female. Regard ID, the most common was diarrhea and infectious gastroenteritis (10.5%), followed by lower respiratory tract infections (7.7%), acute rhinopharyngitis (6.0%), acute amygdalitis (2.3%) (0.7% were due to *Streptococcus* spp), acute pharyngitis (2.0%), middle otitis (1.3%), urinary tract infection (1.1%), impetigo (1.0%), intestinal parasitoses (0.5%) (0.1% amebiasis), cutaneous abscesses (0.3%), acute conjunctivitis (0.3%), varicella (0.2%), scabies (0.2%), sepsis (0.2%). Diarrhea and infectious gastroenteritis was significantly higher in those older than 1 y-old compared to those <1 y-old (OR=3.422, 95%CI 2.136-5.486), however, acute rhinopharyngitis was significantly higher on those <1 y-old (OR=1.759, 95%CI 1.318-2.348).

Conclusions: The Amazon department of Colombia, is amongst the less developed areas of the country, a resource-constrained setting with high illiteracy, limited education, lack of hygienic services and other conditioning factors, particularly in rural areas. Although the first rotavirus vaccine was introduced in 2006 and the second one in 2009, still in some areas such as Leticia, diarrhea (including those by rotavirus) are highly prevalent particularly in children aged 1 to 6 y-old. Vaccine coverage surveillance is of utmost importance in order to warrant its impact on these settings. Nevertheless, in this study, bacterial infections were the most predominant when all of them were combined. Respiratory tract infections were significantly higher, particularly in those infant.