

Study on children psoriasis in Latvia

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ABSTRACT

Objective. The aim of the study was to evaluate psoriasis morbidity among children in Latvia.

Materials and methods. 252 psoriatic children, 3 to 18 years old children, were surveyed using a questionnaire developed for this study. Data on the course of the disease, skin involvement and further clinical symptoms and signs were registered. They were evaluated using PASI system. Data were analyzed using the computerized programs (MS Excel 98 and SPSS). 149 girls (59 %) and 103 boys (41 %) were included in the study, the patients originated from different regions of Latvia.

Results. Children aged 11 to 15 years suffered from psoriasis (46%) most frequently.

Psycho-emotional stress 198 (79%), viral and bacterial infections 119 (47%) were the most frequent promoting factors. In 26% of patients a family history of psoriasis was noted. Psoriasis vulgaris was diagnosed in 57 % of patients, and psoriasis exsudativa in 27 %. Mean PASI index was 12.92.

Conclusion. Psoriasis seems to be quite frequent in children in Latvia.

KEY WORDS

children
psoriasis,
age, clinical
types,
precipitating
factors,
Latvia

Introduction

Psoriasis affects 1-3% of world's population. In the countries of Northern Europe the incidence of psoriasis is particularly high (1,2). It is a multifactorial disease. Pathogenetically it is related to the genetically determined keratinisation process, which manifests itself as hyperproliferation of epidermal keratinocytes and disturbed normal differentiation process of epidermal cells. In the early phase neutrophil leucocytes appear in epidermis and activated T lymphocytes in dermis (5,6). Factors precipitating psoriatic eruption include local trauma, infections (streptococcal, particularly in chil-

dren), stress, endocrine factors, drugs, radiation etc. (1,4,7,8,9). Psoriasis is divided into two types. Type I psoriasis, which is HLA Cw6 positive (around 65% of all psoriasis patients), begins in adolescence. Type II psoriasis, which is HLA Cw6 negative, develops later and is connected neither with HLA system nor family heredity.

H. Takematsu et al. described increased levels of HLA antigens B13, B17, B27, B37 etc. in psoriasis patients. It testifies the link between psoriasis and different HLA system proteins (3,7,10).

