

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS, HIV/AIDS

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS IN CHILDREN.

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INTRODUCTION: We conducted a review of epidemiological characteristics of a group of 233 patients younger than 13 years of age who evaluation was requested by symptoms and/or signs of suspicion of STI in a period of 15 years; in order to design strategies for management of these patients and search for institutional support to define prevention programs.

OBJECTIVE: To describe epidemiological characteristics population of children evaluated in Sexually Transmitted Diseases Unit for a period of 15 years.

METHOD: Retrospective cases review of children from 0 to 13 years of age that required assessment by STIs suspected. Protocol's assessment includes examination clinic for evaluation both of suspicion of sexual abuse and infections allegedly transmitted by this way using a combination of approach as etiologic syndromic including bacteriological tests and serological which allow a reliable diagnostic approach.

RESULTS: Evidenced a progressive increase in number of cases per year, with a slight predominance in female population; most frequent STIs was HPV infection followed by infections characterized by secretion first gonococcal infection, in second non-gonococcal infection; followed by acquired syphilis. Two cases of HIV infection, one with soft chancre and one with Genital Herpes have been documented. In approximately half of cases, sexual abuse was the form of transmission and in the same proportion there was association of anatomical alterations to STIs physical examination suggestive of sexual abuse.

CONCLUSIONS: There is a progressive increase in cases over the past years. Sexual abuse as the most likely route of infection should be considered. Findings that indicate the possibility of sexual abuse should look carefully.