

AIM OF THE STUDY

Acute respiratory infections are the commonest illness in infancy and early childhood.

In Egypt and most developing countries we notice especially in winter months that more than 80% of infants and children come to hospitals with respiratory tract infections. No accurate statistical studies were performed as regards lower respiratory tract infections in respect to respiratory distress.

Abroad approximately 50% of all illness in children under 5 years are due to acute respiratory infections (Howard et al., 1975).

Miller (1960) reported that 1 in 5 involved children the lower respiratory tract was affected, and consequently was serious. While variations in prevalence rate of respiratory infection are reported in different studies, there is general agreement concerning the over-all pattern. There is a gradual reduction in the number of infections from infancy to 5 years of age but a sharp increase occurs on school entry due to greater exposure to infection (Court, 1968). Of the more serious lower respiratory illnesses approximately 1-1.5% of infants develop bronchiolitis and 1% of

infants develop pneumonia before age of 2 years. These figures are approximate and probably under estimate the frequency of infections (Howard,et al., 1975).

Because of the prevalence and importance of respiratory tract infection in infants and children this work was carried out.

The aim of this study is to evaluate the correlation between the clinical and radiological findings in infants and children in the first 4 years of age with respiratory distress as a result of lower respiratory tract infections among patients admitted to Mounira children hospital, Cairo Univ.

We must remember that the plainchest x-ray film probably performed and carefully interpreted is still the most important modality in chest radiology. Often no other investigation is required.