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Determinants of Outcome among Under-Five Children Hospitalized with Pneumonia at a Tertiary Health Facility in South-West Nigeria

Déterminants des résultats chez les enfants de moins de cinq ans hospitalisés pour une pneumonie dans un établissement de santé tertiaire du sud-ouest du Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Pneumonia contributes largely to mortality among children particularly in developing countries. In 2018, about 15% of all deaths in children aged less than 5 years were attributed to pneumonia globally. This study aimed to identify factors at presentation that determine mortality among children less than 5 years of age hospitalized with pneumonia. **Methods:** This was a prospective observational study conducted at the Children emergency unit of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology Teaching Hospital, Osogbo, Nigeria. Subjects were consecutive children aged between 1–60 months with clinical and radiological pneumonia. Treatment outcome and determinants of mortality were studied.

RESULTS: A total of 129 subjects were studied with a male to female ratio of 1.5: 1. Thirteen subjects died, giving a case fatality rate of 10.1%. Mortality was associated with age <24 months ($p = 0.001$), severe wasting ($p < 0.001$), temperature $>38.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($p = 0.001$), grunting ($p < 0.001$), central cyanosis ($p < 0.001$), hypoxaemia ($p < 0.001$), loss of consciousness ($p = 0.007$), severe anaemia ($p < 0.001$), and leucopaenia ($p = 0.001$). Among the significant variables, temperature $>38.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ [adjusted odds ratio (OR) 34.241, 95% confidence interval (CI) 2.496 – 469.815], grunting (OR 19.444, 95% CI 1.744 – 216.725), central cyanosis (OR 43.984, 95% CI 2.001 – 966.729), hypoxaemia (OR 41.883, 95% CI 1.918 – 914.495) and severe anaemia (OR 48.201, 95% CI 3.351 – 693.432) were the independent determinants of mortality.

CONCLUSION: Children hospitalized for pneumonia with temperature $>38.3^{\circ}\text{C}$, grunting, cyanosis, hypoxaemia, and severe anaemia are more likely to die. Hence, they must be treated intensively. **WAJM** 2021; 38(2): 114–119.

Keywords: Mortality, determinants, outcome, childhood pneumonia.

RÉSUMÉ

CONTEXTE: La pneumonie contribue largement à la mortalité des enfants, en particulier dans les pays en développement. En 2018, environ 15 % de tous les décès d'enfants de moins de 5 ans étaient attribués à la pneumonie dans le monde. Cette étude visait à identifier les facteurs de présentation qui déterminent la mortalité chez les enfants de moins de 5 ans hospitalisés pour une pneumonie.

MÉTHODES: Il s'agissait d'une étude prospective d'observation menée à l'unité d'urgence pour enfants de l'hôpital universitaire de technologie Ladoke Akintola, à Osogbo, au Nigeria. Les sujets étaient des enfants consécutifs âgés de 1 à 60 mois atteints de pneumonie clinique et radiologique. Les résultats du traitement et les déterminants de la mortalité ont été étudiés.

RÉSULTATS: 129 sujets au total ont été étudiés, avec un rapport homme/femme de 1,5/1. 13 sujets sont morts, soit un taux de létalité de 10,1 %. La mortalité était associée à l'âge <24 mois ($p = 0.001$), à une émaciation sévère ($p < 0.001$), à une température $>38,30\text{C}$ ($p = 0.001$), à un grognement ($p < 0.001$), à une cyanose centrale ($p < 0.001$), hypoxémie ($p < 0.001$), perte de conscience ($p = 0.007$), l'anémie sévère ($p < 0.001$) et la leucopénie ($p = 0.001$). Parmi les variables significatives, la température $>38,30\text{C}$ [rapport de cotés ajusté (OR) 34,241, intervalle de confiance (IC) à 95% 2,496 - 469,815], le grognement (OR 19,444, 95% IC 1,744 - 216,725), la cyanose centrale (OR 43. 984, 95 % IC 2,001 - 966,729), l'hypoxémie (RC 41,883, 95 % IC 1,918 - 914,495) et l'anémie sévère (RC 48,201, 95 % IC 3,351 - 693,432) étaient les déterminants indépendants de la mortalité.

CONCLUSION: Les enfants hospitalisés pour une pneumonie avec une température $>38,30\text{C}$, un grognement, une cyanose, une hypoxémie et une anémie sévère ont plus de chances de mourir. Ils doivent donc être traités de manière intensive. **WAJM** 2021; 38(2): 114–119.

Mots-clés: Mortalité, déterminants, issue, pneumonie infantile.

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Abbreviations: CFR, Case Fatality Rate; SD, Standard Deviation; SpO₂, Haemoglobin Oxygen Saturation; WBC, White Blood Cell Count; WHO, World Health Organisation.