

Respiratory Tract Lesions in Infants and Children- An 8 Years Study in Tertiary Health Centre

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Abstract

Aims: To study the pathology of various lesions of respiratory tract in infants and children and to determine incidence of respiratory lesions contributing to death. **Methods:** The observational study of 8 years duration included paediatric age group up to 18 years. A detail study of respiratory lesions in infants and children was done on the material received at the histopathology department and autopsy section. The respiratory tract lesions studied were correlated with age, gender and clinical history. **Results:** Out of the total cases received in histopathology and autopsy section respiratory tract lesions of paediatric age group contributed to 152 cases. Total autopsies conducted were 568, out of these 103 were paediatric autopsies contributing to 18.3%. Neonatal autopsies contributed to 2.4%. Male preponderance was noted contributing to 57%. Most common clinical presentation were fever, cough and breathlessness. The majority of primary lung pathology was infective etiology and common age group affected was less than 5 years, hence maximum mortality was noted in this age group. Bronchopneumonia was the commonest pathology observed followed by tuberculosis of lung. Other cases that contributed to minor percentage were congenital adenomatoid malformation, nasal polyps, fungal infections, hydatid disease and hemangiomas. **Conclusion:** Primary infective lung pathology predominated in infants and children followed by developmental anomalies. Bronchopneumonia constitutes majority of the cases followed by tuberculosis. This study intends in improving the management and treatment of respiratory lesions by early diagnosis in pediatric patients and also preventing morbidity and mortality caused by these preventable diseases.