

The Role of Oral Corticosteroids in the Management of Children with Acute Respiratory Diseases

Sonila Boriçi^{1*}, Hasan Hafizi², Gjeorgjina Kuli³, Suela Kelliçi⁴, Gledis Karanxha⁵, Nevila Bozdo⁵

¹ Service of Paediatric Pulmonology and Allergy, University Hospital Centre “Mother Tereza”, Tirana, Albania

² Service of Pulmonology, University Hospital “Shefqet Ndroqi”, Tirana, Albania

³ Service of Paediatric Infectious diseases, University Hospital Centre “Mother Tereza”, Tirana, Albania

⁴ Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine, University of Medicine, Tirana, Albania

⁵ Medical Adviser, Tirana, Albania

Abstract

Respiratory diseases are the most frequent reason for children's visits to the paediatrician. They account for about 25% of paediatric consultations, 10% of which are for asthma, the others are for bronchiolitis, bronchitis and respiratory infections. Asthma is the most prevalent chronic disease of childhood and accounts for a substantial proportion of hospitalizations among children, whereas viral bronchiolitis is the leading cause of hospitalization in the first year of life. In preschool children, wheezing and croup are common respiratory conditions. Corticosteroids are often prescribed as they prevent or suppress inflammation in response to allergic or viral triggers. Oral corticosteroids are often used to

treat some acute respiratory diseases. We discuss here about the management of bronchiolitis, croup, wheezing, and asthma.

Keywords: Bronchiolitis, Croup, Preschool Wheezing, Asthma, Corticosteroids