PARENTAL AWARENESS OF RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV) DURING INFANCY: A MULTINATIONAL SURVEY ASSESSMENT

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Background: RSV is a common cause of lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI) hospitalizations during infancy. This study sought to evaluate awareness of RSV in parents whose infants were hospitalized for severe RSV.

Methods: Data was obtained from a multinational Parent Burden Study. Parents with infants (< 1 year) hospitalized for LRTI were asked to complete a survey upon their infant's discharge from hospital. Parents reported their prior knowledge of RSV and their knowledge of the associated risk factors. Descriptive statistics were applied to determine the percentage of parents with prior RSV awareness; how the knowledge was acquired; and their awareness of RSV risk factors. Results were stratified by mother and father respondents.

Results: A total of 250 infants had confirmed RSV, of which 247 mother surveys and 167 father surveys were completed. Among mothers, 84 (34.0%) had awareness of RSV. This knowledge was most commonly acquired from the healthcare system (38.8%), media (15.3%) and family/friends (11.8%). 74 (30.0%) mothers reported awareness of RSV risk factors. Of the risk factors, born premature (52.0%), smoking exposure (36.0%) and daycare (34.0%) were most commonly known. 33 (19.8%) fathers were aware of RSV. Knowledge was most commonly derived from the healthcare system (42.4%), family/friends (30.3%) and media (9.1%). 29 (17.4%) fathers reported an awareness of RSV risk factors. Born premature (35.0%), siblings (35.0%) and daycare (30.0%) were most commonly known.

Conclusion: Parents with infants at risk of severe RSV infection seem to lack relevant knowledge. Strategies to improve awareness and knowledge of RSV are needed.