

Child Morbidity

Acute Respiratory Infection

- Acute respiratory infections cause four and a half million deaths among children every year, the overwhelming majority occurring in developing countries.

- Pneumonia unassociated with measles causes 70% of these deaths; post-measles pneumonia, 15%; pertussis, 10%; and bronchiolitis and croup syndromes, 5%. Both bacterial and viral pathogens are responsible for these deaths.

Bacterial Causes

- The most important bacterial agents are:
- a-*Streptococcus pneumoniae*
- b-*Haemophilus influenzae*
- c-*Staphylococcus aureus*.

Viral Causes

- a-Respiratory syncytial virus, 15%-20%;
- b-Parainfluenza viruses, 7%-10%;
- c- Influenza A and B viruses and Adenovirus, 2%-4%.
- Mixed viral and bacterial infections occur frequently.

Risk Factors

- Risk factors that increase the incidence and severity of lower respiratory infection in developing countries include:
 - A- large family size,
 - B-Lateness in the birth order,
 - C- Crowding,

Risk Factors

- D-low birth weight,
- E- malnutrition,
- F-vitamin A deficiency,
- G-lack of breast feeding,
- H- pollution,
- E- young age.

- Effective interventions for prevention and medical case management are urgently needed to save the lives of many children predisposed to severe disease.

Diarrhea

- Diarrheal diseases are one of the leading causes of childhood morbidity and mortality in developing countries. An estimated 1,000 million episodes occur each year in children under 5 years of age. Diarrhea causes an estimated 5 million deaths in children under 5 years of age per year.

- About 80% of these deaths occur in children in the first 2 years of life. Approximately one third of deaths among children under five are caused by diarrhea.

- Most diarrheal illnesses are acute, usually lasting no more than 3-5 days and are secondary to
- infectious causes (bacterial, viral, and parasitic). Infectious agents that cause diarrheal disease are
- usually spread by the fecal-oral route, specifically by a) ingestion of contaminated food or water
- b) contact with contaminated hands.

Causes

- The following are the commonest etiologic agents of diarrhea for all ages in decreasing order of prevalence obtained from pooled data worldwide:
- Rotavirus, Enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (ETEC) Bacteria, shigella, campylobacter, *Vibrio cholerae*, and non-Typhoidal Salmonella.

- Noninfectious causes of diarrhea include drugs, surgical conditions, systemic infections and food intolerance.

Prevalence of childhood illnesses, 2012
(Percentage of children under five with illness in the 2 weeks
before the survey)

