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BACKGROUND:

Palivizumab is a monoclonal antibody that provides passive immunity against RSV and has very specific criteria for use that have changed recently. The annual incidence of bronchiolitis is 7-20% and the estimated hospitalisation rate is 2-5%.

PURPOSE:

To describe the use and the effectiveness of palivizumab in the prophylaxis of RSV in the 2013-2014 campaign in a tertiary hospital.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

Retrospective observational study including children who received palivizumab between October 2013 and March 2014.

Variables collected:

- Sex
- Gestational age
- Age at the beginning of the vaccination campaign
- Number of doses
- Prescription criteria
- Number of hospitalisations for bronchiolitis
- Immunochromatographic test for the qualitative detection of RSV antigens

Prescription criteria:

- A:** children < 2 years with bronchopulmonary disease who had required treatment in the last 6 months
- B:** children < 2 years with haemodynamically significant congenital heart disease
- C:** gestational age \leq 28 weeks and age \leq 12 months
- D:** gestational age 29 - 32 weeks and age \leq 6 months
- E:** gestational age 32 - 35 weeks, age < 10 weeks and a school-age brother/sister.

RESULTS:

52 children
61,54% male
3.82 \pm 5.03 month
at the beginning
of the treatment



13 criteria B (25.00%)
6 criteria C (11.54%)
13 criteria D (25.00%)
20 criteria E (38.46%)

All patients (100%) received the recommended dosage
84.62% received all prescribed doses

2 patients (3.85%)
were hospitalised due
to acute bronchiolitis



1 (1.92%) of them had a positive RSV test,
this patient had received only one dose of
palivizumab 4 days before the hospitalisation

CONCLUSION:

Palivizumab has been effective in preventing RSV bronchiolitis in high-risk patients and has been used under the established criteria by the Spanish Society of Neonatology for the campaign 2013-2014.

New criteria for palivizumab use are more restrictive to make treatment more cost effective. More studies are needed to evaluate the effectiveness of palivizumab with current criteria.