

Use of nebulized bronchodilators in infants under 1 year of age: Analysis of four forms of therapy

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The main purpose of this study was to evaluate four different forms of treatment in young infants admitted for acute wheezing (AW). Seventy-nine infants less than one year of age were randomly assigned to one of five groups. Group 1 received nebulized fenoterol plus ipratropium bromide, group 2 fenoterol, group 3 fenoterol plus steroids, and group 4 aminophylline, IV, plus steroids and oral fenoterol; the control group, or group 5, received nebulized normal saline solution. Clinical evaluation was done by means of a scoring system. The effectiveness of treatments was estimated by a score decrease in the first 24 hours, by the percentage of patients whose scores did not decrease during the same period, and by the number of days in the hospital. All infants had significantly decreased scores, except those in the control group; the aminophylline group included a greater percentage of patients who did not abate their scores, and they stayed in the hospital for more days than those in the o