

Persistent diarrhoea in the community. Characteristics and risk factors

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In 58 previously well-nourished patients who were fed cow's milk and who later developed persistent diarrhoea (>15 days), data obtained during the first 8 days of acute diarrhoea were compared with those of patients whose episodes lasted <8 days. Children with persistent diarrhoea weighed less at birth, passed >6 stools/day during the first 48 hours, received early treatment with antibiotics. Their milk feedings were stopped during the first 48 hours, they had a past history of digestive diseases and hospitalizations, they were brought in for consultation after 5 days of symptoms and their nutritional status deteriorated more ($p<0.003$, $p<0.03$, $p<0.0001$, $p<0.0001$, $p<0.0001$, $p<0.002$, $p<0.0001$, and $p<0.03$, respectively). Their mothers were significantly younger ($p<0.0013$), had better schooling ($p<0.037$), and fewer children ($p<0.044$), and were separated from the index child during the day more often ($p<0.056$). After persistent diarrhoea was diagnosed, enteropathogens in stools or lactose i