

Apnea as a presenting symptom in human metapneumovirus infection Apnea como forma de presentación de una infección por metapneumovirus humano

Jofré Morales, Leonor

Luchsinger F., Vivian

Zepeda F., Guillermo

Rojas C., Antonio

Muñoz A., Andrés

Human metapneumovirus (hMPV), a recently described pathogen of lower respiratory tract infections (LRTI), has been detected in 5,4% of Chilean infants hospitalized for LRTI whom are negative for adenovirus, respiratory syncytial virus, influenza and parainfluenza viruses. hMPV may cause bronchiolitis or pneumonia in hospitalized patients, and occasionally require admission to intensive care units and mechanical ventilation. The infection has been associated with apnea, especially in preterm infants. Nosocomial dissemination has also been described. We present the case of a one-month-of age premature infant with apnea, and infection caused by hMPV of probable nosocomial acquisition. Clinical features of hMPV infection are reviewed and its association with apnea and nosocomial transmission is discussed. hMPV should be included in the routine diagnosis of respiratory viruses in infants with apnea and should be considered among the respiratory pathogens associated with nosocomial transmissi