

THE VALUE OF LUNG AUSCULTATION METHOD IN EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF INFANTILE PNEUMONIA DISEASE

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SUMMARY

From November 1997 to June 2000, all the patients admitted to the Respiratory Disease Ward, and Pediatric Department with fever and cough were auscultated, their respiratory rate counted and their lungs X-rayed film for early pneumonia diagnosis. During 8 months, 132 children, aged from 2-48 months, including 87 boys and 45 girls were diagnosed as pneumonia, based on at least one of these three factors: Accelerated respiratory rate, pathologic rates on auscultation, and signs of pneumonia on X-ray film.

Considering the signs of pneumonia on X-ray film as a gold standard in early diagnosis of pneumonia, the authors determined the sensitivity and the specificity of two methods of early diagnosis of pneumonia:

- Respiratory rate counting method: The sensitivity: 93.54%; the specificity: 25%,*
- Lung auscultation method: The sensitivity: 50%; the specificity: 75%,*

From the above results, the authors came to the following conclusions:

+ The sensitivity of Respiratory rate counting method is very high, while its specificity; so it is suitable for screening diagnosis on community scale, but the precision is limited due to having a lot of false positive cases.

+ The sensitivity of lung auscultation method is low, but its specificity is high, which make the method suitable for the control diagnosis in hospitals at higher levels.