

DIAPER RASH: A STUDY OF MODIFYING FACTORS

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BACKGROUND: Diaper rash became the most common dermatologic disorder of infancy. The data concerning its prevalence in different countries are controversial. The impact of modifying factors also remains under consideration.

AIM: To determine the frequency of diaper rash in infants in Georgia and to study the comparative importance of factors which may contribute to the rash development.

DESIGN: There were investigated 2000 infants aged from 1 month to 2 years in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. Special questionnaires were filled out. The intensity of clinical manifestations was evaluated using a standardized rash grading scale. 16 possible modifying factors were registered as well. Besides common statistical methods a logistic regression model was used.

RESULTS: Diaper rash was revealed in 36,65% cases. There were found significant correlations of the manifestation of diaper rash (frequency, intensity and duration) with the following factors: prematurity, age, type of feeding, history of allergy, social-economical state of family, mother's level of education, correct usage of diaper, type of diapers used, the general state of health. The impact of the correct usage of diaper and proper skin care were the greatest.

CONCLUSIONS: Improvement of mother's child care education level seems to be the most effective way to decrease the frequency and severity of diaper-related skin disorders in infants.

