

**THE INCIDENCE AND SURVIVAL RATE OF CYSTIC FIBROSIS IN MACEDONIA**

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The marked prolongation of the life of patients with cystic fibrosis (CF) has been achieved in developed countries. In less developed parts of the world the median life expectancy of CF patients lower. The aim of our study was to estimate the incidence of CF in our country and the influence of the application of new forms of CF management on survival, in the period from 1989 to 2002. The incidence of CF per year varied from 4 to 12 new cases. Taking in consideration the natality rate (25-30.000 newborns per year), the incidence of CF seems to be the similar lake in other European courtiers, but misdiagnose of CF still occurred. The estimation of cumulative survival of CF patients in two periods: (1) from 1989 to1995, and (2) from 1996 (when the specialized CF centre was established at Pediatric clinic) to 2002 showed significantly higher cumulative survival in the second period (0.902) compared to first period (0.486). The mortality rate fell from 39% in the firs period to 8.8% in the second period. CF popuation in Macedonia is getting larger and older.The proportion of patients older than 12 years is now 23% in comparison with only 5%,7 years ago. We conclude that the development of a specialised CF centre at the Pediatric Clinic in Skopje and the application of up-to-date forms of treatment resulted in considerable decreased of mortality rate and improved survival of CF patients.

