

# **RISK FACTORS FOR PNEUMONIA IN CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 2 MONTHS & 5 YEARS 2004**

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## **ABSTRACT**

We undertook a hospital based case control study at Sri Avittom Thirunal Hospital, Trivandrum to identify the risk factors for pneumonia in children aged between 2 months and 5 years. 50 children clinically diagnosed with pneumonia in the age group of 2 months to 5 years, admitted as inpatients in the paediatric wards of SAT hospital, Trivandrum during Oct Dec, 2007 were as inpatients in the paediatric wards of SAT hospital, Trivandrum during October- December 2007, were randomly selected as cases and 100 age and sex matched normal children reporting to outpatient department of SAT hospital, Trivandrum with non respiratory diseases during October- December 2007 as controls. Mother/ guardian of study subjects were interrogated for the risk factors of pneumonia as per a predesigned proforma and malnutrition of study subjects were assessed. Data was coded and compiled using Microsoft EXCEL software and analyzed using SPSS. Quantitative analysis using univariate/ bivariate analysis was done. Risk factors which emerged significant in the analysis are: Passive smoking at home (OR= 5.426 (95% CI= 1.168- 6.921);  $p < 0.005$ ), Bottle feeding ( OR= 5.413 (95% CI= 1.154- 6.897);  $p < 0.005$ ) Living in a kuccha house (OR= 2.364 (95% CI= 1.130-4.942);  $p > 0.005$ ), Positive history of pneumonia in siblings (OR= 114.889 (95% CI= 30.883- 427.407);  $p < 0.005$ ). Sex and educational status of parents did not emerge as a significant risk factor in the study. Birth weight above or equal to 2.5 kg term delivery did not come out as protective factors against pneumonia. Governmental and

non governmental interventions should be made to reduce the modifiable risk factors and thus save lives of millions of young children from the scourge of the deadly pneumonia, eg promoting the use of smokeless chimneys, awareness campaigns focusing ill effects of passive smoking in children.