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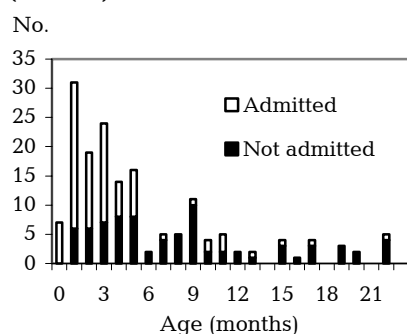
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Whooping cough is notifiable in children under two years, when the child has clinical whooping cough and the case is laboratory-confirmed. In the year 2000, 166 children were notified with laboratory-confirmed whooping cough; 77 boys and 89 girls, a figure that was 177 in 1999, EPI-NEWS 40/00. 60% of the notifications were not received until after a reminder letter. There were between eight and 18 cases per month, with a slight predominance in the second half-year of 2000. A total of 57 children (34%) were under three months, 95 children (57%) were under five months and 143 children (86%) were under one year. Among the notified cases, the frequency of whooping cough was greatest in Århus, North Jutland, Vejle and Viborg counties. The majority, 61%, were demonstrated by PCR alone, while 39% were demonstrated by culture +/- PCR.

#### Hospital admission and sequelae

A good half (87) of the children had been admitted to hospital in connection with the whooping cough infection. Of these, 45 children (52%) were under three months, 68 children (78%) were under five months and 83 children (95%) were under a year old, Fig. 1.

**Fig. 1. Notified cases of whooping cough in children < 2 years, by age (months)**



In five children, the infection was so serious that ventilator therapy was necessary; all were children under two months. An additional three children received CPAP therapy. One child suffered lasting consequences from the illness. No deaths were reported among the notified children.

#### Vaccination status

Just under half, 76 (46%), of the children were unvaccinated, 41 children (25%) had received one vaccination, 33 children (20%) had received two vaccinations and 15 children (9%)

### WHOOPING COUGH 2000

had received three vaccinations, Table 1.

**Table 1. Notified cases of whooping cough in children < 2 years, by vaccination status and hospital admission**

| Vaccinated | Total no. | Adm. no. | Adm. (%) |
|------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| 0 times    | 76        | 54       | 71       |
| 1 time     | 41        | 22       | 57       |
| 2 times    | 33        | 9        | 27       |
| 3 times    | 15        | 1        | 7        |
| Unknown    | 1         | 1        | 100      |
| Total      | 166       | 87       | 52       |

Of the 76 unvaccinated children, 55 (72%) were under three months, 66 (87%) were under five months and 73 (96%) were under one year old.

#### Source of infection

The source of infection was unknown for 42% of the notified children. For the remaining children, siblings accounted for 24%, other family members 10%, infection in day care institutions 5%, playmate and other known persons 13%, while whooping cough in the city/surroundings made up 6% of the stated sources of infection.

#### Comments

Whooping cough is endemic in Denmark, and infants are particularly vulnerable if they catch whooping cough. The effect of the whooping cough vaccination is high for children under two, EPI-NEWS 40/00. For this reason, it is important that the whooping cough vaccination programme should be followed as closely as possible. Older siblings constitute a known reservoir of infection, and the introduction of revaccination at the age of five is therefore being considered.

(A. H. Christiansen, P. Andersen, Department of Epidemiology)

### BLOOD DONOR SCREENING 2000

In accordance with the National Board of Health's executive order concerning physicians' notification of infectious diseases, etc., the country's blood banks submit a monthly report of number of blood donations and number of blood donors found positive for HIV antibodies, HBsAg and anti-HCV, respectively, to the Department of Epidemiology. Since 1 October 1997, screening for anti-HTLV I/II has been limited to testing all first-time donors plus several categories of former donors who are

rejoining the donor corps. The objective is that everybody who donates blood in Denmark is tested and found negative for anti-HTLV I/II at least once. In 2000, a total of 378,976 units of blood were screened, while 35,675 donations were screened for HTLV I/II. On screening for HTLV I/II and HIV antibodies, no positive donors were found, Table 2. In both 1998 and 1999, one HIV-positive donor was found on this screening, EPI-NEWS 13-14/99 and 7/00. The number of donors found positive for HBsAg, anti-HCV and HTLV I/II was on a level with previous years.

**Table 2. No. of donors positive for HIV antibodies, HBsAg, anti-HCV and HTLV I/II, 2000. 1<sup>st</sup>-time donors in ( )**

|                    |    |      |
|--------------------|----|------|
| Pos. for HIV       | 0  | (0)  |
| Pos. for HBsAg     | 15 | (12) |
| Pos. for anti-HCV  | 9  | (4)  |
| Pos. for HTLV I/II | 0  | (0)  |

Fifteen persons were found positive for HBsAg: seven women and seven men; gender was not reported for one person. The age distribution was 18-54 years, and the median age was 33 years. Twelve of these were first-time donors, one had donated blood before screening was introduced in 1983, one was seroconverted and for one, the details were not reported. For five persons, it was reported that they were born and/or raised in an area where hepatitis B infection is endemic. Nine persons were found positive for anti-HCV: two women and seven men. The age distribution was 22-52 years, and the median age was 47 years. Four persons were first-time donors, one had donated blood before screening was launched in 1991, one donor test had previously been inconclusive and three were seroconverted. For several of the donors who were tested positive for anti-HCV, several possible routes of infection were reported. For four donors, it was reported that they had been tattooed, two had also undergone piercing and one had also had acupuncture. Two had previously had intravenous drug abuse. For three donors, the route of infection was stated as unknown. The incidence of markers for retrovirus and hepatitis virus among Danish donors is still low.

(G. Høy, E. Smith, Department of Epidemiology)

16 January 2002

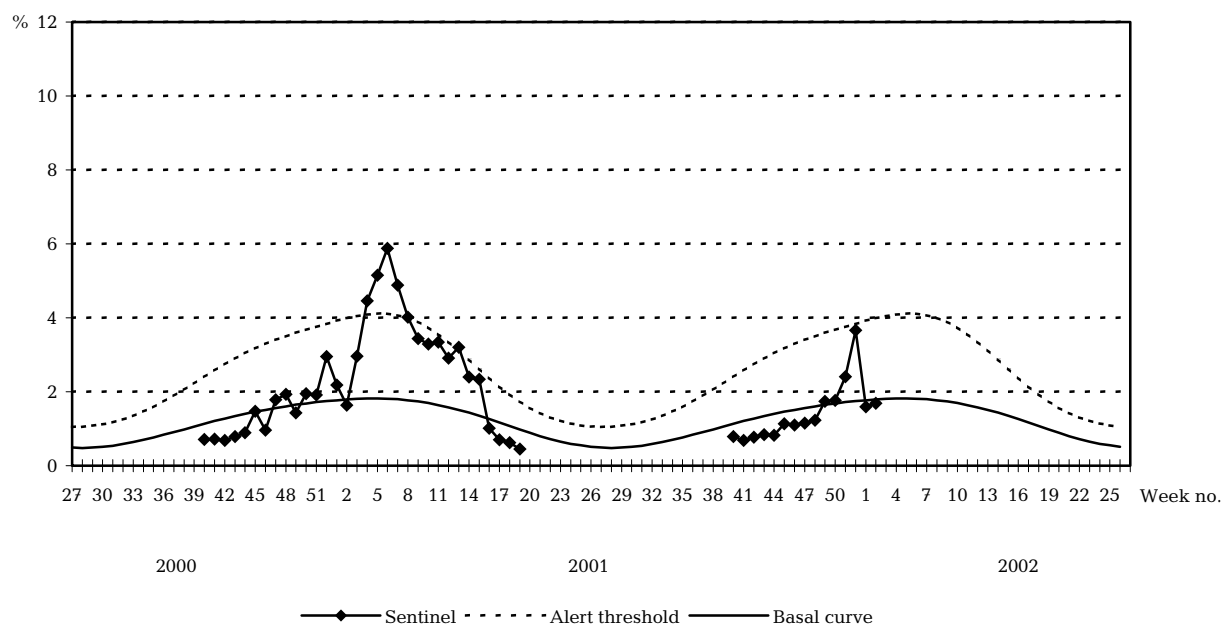
**Monthly no. of serum specimens positive for *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* by complement fixation test, Statens Serum Institut, 3rd quarter 2001**

|  | July | August | September |
|--|------|--------|-----------|
| Positive specimens during current period               | 21   | 34     | 32        |
| Positive specimens during same period of previous year | 22   | 22     | 43        |
| Average for same period of the 5 previous years        | 38   | 51     | 79        |

(Dept. of Respiratory Infections, Meningitis and STIs)

**Sentinel surveillance of influenza activity**

Weekly percentage of consultations, 2000/2001/2002



**Sentinel:** Influenza consultations as % of total consultations  
**Basal curve:** Expected frequency of influenza consultations under non-epidemic conditions  
**Alert threshold:** Possible incipient epidemic

(Dept. of Epidemiology)