CEREBRAL PALSY WITH SPASTIC DIPLEGIC SUBTYPE IS THE MOST COMMON CAUSE OF REHABILITATION OF CHILDREN IN POLAND: ANALYSIS OF PATIENTS HOSPITALIZED IN A LARGE SPECIALIZED CENTER FROM 2005 TO 2009

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Introduction: Cerebral palsy (CP) is a common, non-progressive, usually spastic, neurologic disorder requiring long term rehabilitation. CP presents as various disturbances in motor activity, sensation, depth perception and other sight-based perceptual problems, including the ability to communicate and occasionally problems with cognition. Due to its diversity in symptoms, CP is subdivided into several subtypes.

Objectives: To analyze the prevalence of different subtypes of cerebral palsy in children rehabilitated as inpatients in a single large specialized center in Poland.

Materials and methods: retrospective observational study. We analyzed medical charts of 1045 patients aged 0-18 years, hospitalized (all admitted for the first time) in rehabilitation department in the town of Zagorze from January 2005 to December 2009. 209 children (85 girls) were 0-3 years old, 231 (88 girls) 3-7 years old, 151 (71 girls) 7-14 years old, and 45 (13 girls) 15-18 years old. 102 children were admitted in 2005, 80 in 2006, 108 in 2007, 151 in 2008 and 185 in 2009. CP was classified according to ICD-10 as: G80.0 Spastic quadriplegic CP, G80.1 Spastic diplegic CP, G80.2 Spastic hemiplegic CP, G80.3 Dyskinetic CP, G80.4 Ataxic CP or G80.8 other (mixed) cerebral palsy.

Results: CP was diagnosed in 636/1045 children (258 girls and 378 boys) hospitalized for the first time. The majority (71%) of children (401/636) came from the town; the remaining 235 children came from the country. The most common subtypes of CP were: spastic diplegic CP (66%), than spastic hemiplegic CP (19%), followed by other CP (G80.8, 11%) and spastic quadriplegic CP (4%). There were only two children with ataxic CP and one with dyskinetic CP hospitalized in the analyzed period. Conclusions: cerebral palsy with spastic diplegic CP as it's the most common subtype is probably the main reason for providing rehabilitation of children in Poland.