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**VACCINE EFFICACY, EFFECTIVENESS, SAFETY AND MARKERS OF PROTECTIONS**

**VARICELLA INFECTIONS AT THE POPULATION IN BITOLA IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN 2012-2014**

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Varicella is a highly contagious disease caused by the varicella zoster virus (VZV). In the absence of vaccination, this infection is acquired mainly in childhood.

**Objectives:** To show the prevalence of varicella infections at the population in municipality of Bitola from year 2012 to 2014, who were registered at the Center for Public Health.

**Methods:** The retrospective, epidemiological study included respondents aged from 0 to over 60 years in the period from year 2012 to 2014, who were diagnosed with varicella infection. It was confirmed by clinical and laboratory examinations.

**Results:** During the period of 3 years in Center for Public Health, Bitola were registered a total number of 1637 cases, confirmed with a diagnosis of varicella infection, (general rate of morbidity=149.4/10000), 52.17% male and 47.89% female. In relation to age, varicella infections were more common in children from 0 to 6 years old (rate of morbidity=520.6/10000), living in an urban environment (rate of morbidity=64.5/10000) with the highest incidence in the winter months from November to January.

**Conclusion:** The prevalence of varicella infections at the population in municipality of Bitola, was from 500-600 cases per year, more common among children, male, aged 0 to 6 years old. Vaccination against this disease, in our country, is not implemented yet. Full implementation of the routine varicella vaccination program should result in further reductions in varicella incidence.