

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Pneumonia is one of important causes of morbidity and mortality in children aged under 5 years worldwide. In Uganda, new evidence shows that pneumonia kills more children than malaria, measles and HIV and AIDS combined. In Kamuli district, Acute respiratory infections including Pneumonia is the Second among top ten diseases according to OPD attendance. The general objective of the study was to Investigate Risk factors of Pneumonia among children under five years of age in Kamuli District, Uganda.

Methods: This was a case control study conducted in the two hospitals of Kamuli district namely Kamuli general Hospital and Kamuli Mission Hospital. 126 respondents were interviewed of which cases were (n=63) and controls were (n= 63). Cases were identified through daily visits to the district's general Hospital and the Mission hospital and children under five years of age who were admitted to the hospitals were considered for inclusion in the study. Controls were neighbors of the cases and were identified through the care takers of the cases and later on followed up in their communities where cases came from under the guidance of the caretakers of cases from the two hospitals. The study was conducted in the months of October and November 2012. Data were analyzed at bivariate and multivariate level and presented as means, percentages and median.

Results : The main predictors of occurrence of Pneumonia among children under five years of age in Kamuli district were: History of exclusive breast feeding , (OR= 0.003, CI= 0.00 – 0.054, P=0.001), Number of persons living in a household with a population of 5 people or more were 25.9 times more likely to develop pneumonia than those who lived in a household with 5 people or less, (OR=25.95, CI= 1.85 – 364.9, P=0.016), History of Flulike illness , (OR= 0.01, CI= 0.01 – 0.22 , P=0.002), Measles infection, (OR= 0.11, CI= 0.03 – 0.38, P=0.001) and History of wheezing, (OR=0.21, CI= 0.05 – 0.96, P= 0.044).

Conclusions: Living in a household of five or less people reduces on the likelihood of developing pneumonia among children under five years of age and Breast feeding protects young children against pneumonia, especially in the first six months of life.

Recommendations: Public health interventions should focus on health education and mass sensitization of the community targeting reduction of Pneumonia with emphasis on exclusive breastfeeding and ensuring that congestion or over crowding in households is reduced.