

Recurrent respiratory tract infections in children

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Project description: We perform clinical studies of the roles of viruses and bacteria in respiratory tract infections, taking into account the genetic susceptibility and environmental risk factors. The host innate immunologic response is analysed in order to develop the differential diagnostics. Our major project is a systematic follow-up of a 2-year birth cohort of 1827 children. The prospective setting allows us to determine the effects of early viral infections and bacterial colonization on later health. Another study population of children with pharyngotonsillitis was recruited at the Emergency Department. We expect to generate new data on the interaction between viruses, bacteria and the host in the pathogenesis of respiratory infections, and on the disease burden caused by specific viruses or bacteria. Novel diagnostic methods for differentiation between viral and bacterial infections are developed.

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