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TETANUS IN POLAND IN 2011

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ABSTRACT

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY tetanus epidemiological assessment of the situation in Poland in 2011.

MATERIALS AND METHODS. We used the data published in the annual bulletin “Infectious diseases and poisonings in Poland in 2011” and “Vaccinations in 2011” (NIPH-NIH-Department of Epidemiology, GIS - Department of Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases in Humans - Warsaw 2012) and individual reports sent to the Department of Epidemiology NIPH-NIH

RESULTS. In 2011 there were reported 14 cases of tetanus – (incidence 0.036 / 100 000) two less than in 2010. The patients were aged 50 years or more. Among them 4 persons were vaccinated. In remaining 10 cases there was a lack of data on vaccination. 5 patients died (35.7%).

CONCLUSIONS: The incidence of tetanus in Poland occurs mostly in people aged above 50 years of age. Vaccination should be promoted among the elderly in the recommended intervals, every 10 years.

Keywords: *tetanus, epidemiological surveillance, Poland, 2011*

In 2011, there were recorded 14 cases of tetanus in seven provinces (Table I). In comparison to 2010 it was a decrease of two cases.

In the provinces of Dolnośląskie, Małopolskie and Mazowieckie were reported 3 cases in each. In Śląskie were reported 2 cases, in Opolskie, Pomorskie and Wielkopolskie one case in each. Incidence per 100,000 in the country amounted to 0.036 (Table I).

Among those patients were 5 men and 9 women. All cases occurred in people aged 50 years or more. 5 deaths were recorded, three males aged 60 years or more, and two in women over 79 years of age (Table II).

3 cases occurred in urban areas and 11 in rural areas. (Table III).

In 4 cases information that they were not vaccinated were obtained. In 10 cases vaccination data were not given. In no case were implemented preventive measures after injury. As in previous years, the data on status of vaccination against tetanus was highly incomplete.

The nature of wounds infected with tetanus bacilli was varied. In 8 cases it was an abrasion or cut, in 2 cases a puncture wound, cut wound in 2 cases, laceration in one and in one necrosis of the lower limbs.

The incubation period in 2 cases remained unknown. In 4 cases it was 2-7 days, in 6 cases it was 8-14 days, and in 2 cases from 15 to 21 days. 4 disease occurred in August,

3 in September, 2 in July. In March, May, June, October and November there was one case reported in each.

Table I. Tetanus in Poland in 2010 - 2011. Number of cases and incidence per 100,000 population by province

Province	2010		2011	
	case	incidence	case	incidence
Polska	16	0.042	14	0.036
1. Dolnośląskie	1	0.035	3	0.103
2. Kujawsko-Pomorskie	-	-	-	-
3. Lubelskie	1	0.046	-	-
4. Lubuskie	-	-	-	-
5. Łódzkie	1	0.039	-	-
6. Małopolskie	4	0.121	3	0.090
7. Mazowieckie	-	-	3	0.057
8. Opolskie	1	0.097	1	0.098
9. Podkarpackie	2	0.095	-	-
10. Podlaskie	1	0.084	-	-
11. Pomorskie	-	-	1	0.044
12. Śląskie	1	0.022	2	0.043
13. Świętokrzyskie	1	0.079	-	-
14. Warmińsko-Mazurskie	1	0.070	-	-
15. Wielkopolskie	1	0.029	1	0.029
16. Zachodniopomorskie	1	0.059	-	-

Source: Infectious diseases and poisoning in Poland in 2011, Warsaw: NIPH-NIH 2012

Table II. Tetanus in Poland in 2011. Number of cases, incidence per 100 000 and deaths by age and sex

Age range	Males			Females			Total		
	case	incidence	deaths	case	incidence	deaths	case	incidence	deaths
0-19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50-59	-	-	-	1	0.03	-	1	0.02	-
60-69	1	0.06	1	2	0.10	-	3	0.08	1
70-79	3	0.31	1	2	0.13	-	5	0.20	1
80 i >	1	0.25	1	4	0.42	2	5	0.37	3
Total	5	0.03	3	9	0.05	2	14	0.04	5

The seasonal distribution of reported cases of tetanus bacilli infections indicates relationship with the period of outdoor professional activity or recreation.

CONCLUSIONS

In the last decade it was seen a decrease in the incidence of tetanus counts. Cases are mainly people over 50 years of age, not vaccinated and active in working outdoors. Almost never were recorded cases of young people. The role of primary care physicians should encourage patients to be vaccinated at the recommended

Table III. Tetanus in Poland in 2011. Number of cases and incidence per 100,000 by sex in urban and rural population and deaths by province

Province	Males		Females		City		Country		Deaths
	case	incidence	case	incidence	case	incidence	case	incidence	
Poland	5	0.03	9	0.05	3	0.01	11	0.07	5
1. Dolnośląskie	-	-	3	0.20	-	-	3	0.34	1
2. Kujawsko-Pomorskie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Lubelskie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Lubuskie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Łódzkie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Małopolskie	2	0.12	1	0.06	1	0.06	2	0.12	1
7. Mazowieckie	1	0.04	2	0.07	1	0.03	2	0.11	1
8. Opolskie	-	-	1	0.19	-	-	1	0.21	-
9. Podkarpackie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Podlaskie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11. Pomorskie	-	-	1	0.09	-	-	1	0.13	-
12. Śląskie	1	0.04	1	0.04	1	0.03	1	0.10	1
13. Świętokrzyskie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14. Warmińsko-Mazurskie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15. Wielkopolskie	1	0.06	-	-	-	-	1	0.07	1
16. Zachodniopomorskie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

10-year intervals, in particular this should include people over 60 years of age, in whom the course of tetanus is especially severe and can lead to death. Of particular importance is the promotion of vaccination among people in older age groups, working in rural areas.

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