

Dias, Margarida<sup>1</sup>; Cardoso, Beatriz Falcao<sup>1</sup>; Moreira, Tatiana<sup>1</sup>; Simoes, Diana<sup>1</sup>; Pinheiro, Marta<sup>1,2</sup>; Maia, Ana<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Pediatrics, Centro Hospitalar Universitário de São João, Porto, Portugal;

<sup>2</sup>Department of Gynecology-Obstetrics and Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine of the University of Porto, Portugal

**Background:** Vaccination against COVID-19 in pediatric age has been a hot topic recently. This study aimed to assess parents' intention to vaccinate their children against COVID-19 and identify which factors may influence this decision.

**Methods:** An observational study was conducted between June and July 2021 by applying an anonymous questionnaire to a sample of caregivers of children and adolescents followed in ambulatory care in a Portuguese central hospital. We included sociodemographic data, immunization history, personal background, exposure to COVID-19 and caregivers' beliefs. At the time of the study, there was still no official recommendation from health authorities regarding vaccination in pediatric age.

**Results:** A total of 78 questionnaires were conducted. The mean age of the children was 9.2 years ( $\pm 5.9$ ), 56.4% were male, 94.8% had an updated immunization history, and 65.8% had extra vaccines. Of these children, 22.1% had comorbidities. Among the caregivers, 83.3% were mothers, the mean age was 39.4 years ( $\pm 9.4$ ), and 26.9% had attended university. The vaccine was considered safe by 61.5%, and 34.6% answered they did not know whether to consider it safe or not. Information about the vaccine was obtained through television in 84.6%, social networks in 42.3% and 34.6% in the information given by health professionals. Regarding the intention to vaccinate their children, 76.9% answered "yes", 7.7% did not answer and 15.4% answered "no". The vaccine's ineffectiveness ( $n=5$ ) and inappropriate age ( $n=3$ ) were the most cited reasons not to vaccinate. In 82.9%, the number of doses of the vaccine would not influence the decision.

**Conclusions:** The study results show that caregivers have considerable resistance to the vaccination of children and adolescents against COVID-19, mainly based on the belief in the vaccine's ineffectiveness. The majority obtained information about the vaccine in the media, which reinforces the importance and the opportunity for intervention by transmitting credible and perceptible information in these media.

**ID: 334**

**Oral Presentation**

*Topics:* NUTRITION & DIETS, ADOLESCENT MEDICINE, COVID-19

*Keywords:* Eating disorders, public health, hospital discharge, cross-sectional study

**Eating disorder issues in the adolescent population during the COVID-19 pandemic: a cross-sectional study of discharge records in developmental ages in Italy.**

Lo Moro, Giuseppina<sup>1</sup>; Mamo, Carlo<sup>2</sup>; Lemma, Patrizia<sup>1</sup>; Borraccino, Alberto<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Torino, Italy; <sup>2</sup>Epidemiology Unit, ASL TO3, Piedmont Region, Grugliasco, Italy

**Background:** COVID-19 consequences had negatively impacted healthcare services during the pandemic hospitalizations, and the use of many health services were drastically reduced, with some exception for urgent non-deferable conditions, with effects on people's mental health, especially in developmental ages, where difficulties in coping with the situation might have had an impact on eating behaviours. We, therefore, aimed to explore hospitalizations for eating disorders (ED) before and during the pandemic to identify any possible changes due to this unprecedented crisis.

**Methods:** We performed a retrospective cross-sectional study of all discharge records in patients aged 5–19 years in the Piedmont region in Italy. Overall hospitalization, age and gender-specific rates, and the proportion of hospitalization due to eating disorders in 2020 were compared to those in 2018–2019.

**Results:** the overall number of hospitalizations for any cause in developmental ages were reduced by 32% (–31% in the 15–19 years-of-age group; –29% in the 10–14 years of age; –36% in the 5–9 years-of-age group). Overall Hospitalizations due to ED reduced by 14%, with a decrease of about 19% in the oldest group and about 30% in the youngest one but a 3% increase in the 10 to 14 years-of-age group. The most frequently diagnosed disorder was anorexia nervosa, accounting for at least 55% of all eating disorder hospitalizations.

The total proportion of hospitalizations for ED in 2018–2019 significantly increased from 13.6‰ to 17.3‰ in 2020 ( $p < 0.05$ ). The same significant increase was observed in the three age groups: 23.0‰ vs 27.0‰ ( $p < 0.05$ ) in the 15–19 years-of-age group, 12.1‰ vs 17.5‰ ( $p < 0.05$ ) in the 10–14, and 2.5‰ vs 2.7‰ (NS) in the 5–9 years-of-age group, respectively. Overall, the age-specific crude rate slightly decreased over the studied period, except for the 10–14 age group. The 2018–2019 mean prevalence in the three age groups was 1.33, 0.51, 0.11 per 1000 individuals, and the 2020 prevalence was 1.08, 0.53, 0.08 for the 15–19 years, 10–14 years, 5–9 years of age, respectively.

**Conclusions:** During the pandemic, hospitalizations for ED decreased, but less than other hospitalizations. The proportion of hospitalizations for these conditions has increased, particularly in the 10 to 14-year-of-age group, which also showed a slight increase in the raw prevalence. Determinants of this increase should be further investigated, as it might be the tip of an iceberg that represents a serious public health concern.

**ID: 214**

**Oral Presentation**

*Topics:* COVID-19

*Keywords:* Autism spectrum disorder (ASD), COVID-19 pandemic, Routine

#### **Impact of one-year pandemic on children with autism spectrum disorder**

Rebelo, Ana Torres; Pinto, Diana Henriques; Cunha, Rosário; Monteiro, Diana Reis; Sá, Liliana; Monteiro, Virgínia; Monteiro, Joana

Centro Hospitalar entre o Douro e Vouga, Paediatrics, Santa Maria Da Feira, Portugal

**Introduction and Aims:** The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented situation that has brought us numerous challenges. Because they are particularly vulnerable to changes in routine, children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are particularly at risk. In this study, we evaluated the effects of a year of the pandemic on these patients regarding the change in their behaviour, habits and impact on the socio-family context.

**Methodology:** Retrospective study, through the application of an anonymous questionnaire, by telephone consultation, to 47 caregivers of children with ASD followed in the Development Consultation.

**Results:** In the study population, we obtained a predominance of males (91.5%), and the average age was 5 and a half years. Compared to the pre-pandemic period, we found a decrease in physical activity practice (0.69 vs 1.09 days/week;  $p < 0.001$ ) and a significant increase in screen exposure time (3.08 vs 1.09 h/day;  $p < 0.001$ ). We did not identify appreciable changes in sleep quality. As for behaviour, 45% of caregivers reported an increase in irritability/anxiety/aggression periods, and 19% pointed to a regression in psychomotor acquisitions. In 51% of cases, support was continued