Respiratory Tract

Study: Most young children with pre-pandemic coronavirus bronchiolitis had co-infection
by Melissa Jenco, News Content Editor


Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, young children with bronchiolitis linked to other coronaviruses often had multiple infections, according to a new study.

Researchers studied 1,880 children hospitalized with bronchiolitis from two multicenter cohorts - a group under 2 years from 2007-'10 and a group under 1 year from 2011-'14. Children were tested for 18 viruses, including four endemic coronaviruses (CoV), which are not the newest CoV identified (SARS-CoV-2).


"Until SARS-CoV-2 testing is more rapid and widely available and false negatives are better understood, the present results are a warning to clinicians currently caring for children with respiratory symptoms that identifying a common respiratory virus (e.g., RSV or rhinovirus) does not exclude co-infection with SARS-CoV-2," authors wrote.

Children with both one of the older coronavirus infections and RSV needed intensive care at about the same rate as those who only had RSV. However, having a higher viral load of coronavirus was linked to more severe illness.

Resources

- Information for health care professionals about COVID-19 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Information about COVID-19 from the AAP Red Book
- Information about COVID-19 from the AAP
- Information for parents on COVID-10 from HealthyChildren.org