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PREVALENCE OF HEREDITY IN CHILDREN BORN WITH CLEFT LIP AND PALATE

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BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE: The incidence of heredity as a factor for the occurrence of cleft lip and palate is remarkable, as shown by the high number affected relatives. Therefore, this study investigates the prevalence of heredity on children aged 0 to 3, born with cleft lip and palate, cared for in HRAC. **METHODS:** This is a descriptive, quantitative and retrospective study involving 325 children born with cleft lip and palate, as well as with associated anomalies. **RESULTS:** Out of the 325 children, 106 (49.23%) had at least one family member who was also born with cleft lip and palate. The greatest incidence of heredity happened among cousins, this relationship being present in 70 cases (21.54%), followed by maternal/paternal uncles (29 cases – 8.92%), parents (14 cases – 4.31%), brothers (7 cases – 2.15%), grandparents (4 cases – 1.23%) and great-grandparents (4 cases – 1.23%). Regarding the type of cleft lip and palate, the most common were cleft palate (105 cases – 32.3%), left unilateral cleft lip and palate (75 cases – 23.07%), bilateral cleft lip and palate (65 cases – 20%) and left unilateral cleft lip (36 cases – 11.07%). Also, Pierre Robin Sequence had its greatest incidence in association with cleft palate on the first child. **CONCLUSIONS:** A positive relationship was found regarding the occurrence of cleft lip and palate among the relatives of the children included in the sample. We emphasize the importance of providing adequate orientation to families, focusing on a responsible family planning and providing information on the heightened occurrence risks of cleft lip and palate if there is already a family member affected, as well as on prevention measures to avoid associated anomalies.