nocturnal GERD cases reported less non-prescription medication use than younger adults (9.5% versus 22.5%; p < 0.05) for GERD-related symptoms. CONCLUSIONS: Symptomatic GERD and nocturnal GERD were less prevalent and severe in elderly compared to younger adults. Elderly reported less medication use for GERD-related symptoms than younger adults.

**GASTROESOPHAGEAL REFUX IN INFANTS: IMPACT ON THE QOL OF PARENTS**

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Very common in infants, gastroesophageal reflux causes regurgitations which generally disappear during the first year of life (or before the infant starts walking). Diagnosis was made in 18% of cases during a statistical study carried out among infants which were theoretically in good health. Although rarely or not at all evaluated, the impact of GER in infants upon the everyday life of the parents is undoubtedly far from negligible. OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the impact of GER in infants upon the quality of life of both parents. METHODS: Within the context of a cohort, 150 infants (under 3 months of age) were monitored over a period of 6 months. On inclusion, a generic scale (SF-12) are completed by both parents. The completed questionnaires were returned in prepaid envelopes. RESULTS: The first results concerned the first 40 patients. Regarding the SF-12, the results were organised in 2 scores: mental (MCS-12) and physical (PCS-12). The norms observed in a standard American population are a score of 50 (e-t:10) for each dimension. The SF-12 scores for the fathers on inclusion were: PCS-12 = 52.6 (4.5) & MCS-12 = 44.7 (8.4). The SF-12 scores for the mothers on inclusion were: PCS-12 = 47.4 (7.7) & MCS-12 = 36.0 (9.8). Paired comparison of these results shows a modification in the quality of life of the mother compared with that of the father. This difference is significant in both dimensions (p < 0.005). CONCLUSIONS: The quality of life, evaluated by the SF12, of the parents whose child suffered from gastroesophageal reflux was modified; this phenomenon was particularly marked with regard to the “mental” component. The quality of life of the mother was, in our study, more modified than that of the father. The impact upon the quality of life of the immediate entourage was, once again, highlighted. This impact should be taken into consideration in the treatment of the infant.

**INFECTION—Clinical Outcomes/Healthcare Policy**

**ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SKIN TATTOOS AND HEPATITIS B OF 1/2001 PRIVATES AT ADISORN FORT HOSPITAL, THAILAND**

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OBJECTIVE: To determine whether there is association between skin tattoos, Hepatitis-B and prisons, to investigate risk behaviors for Hepatitis-B and to describe characteristics of person who have tattoos. METHODS: This retrospective study consisted of a self-administered survey, and an ELISA blood test for viral hepatitis B. The study sample consisted of all 1/2001 privates at Adisorn Fort Hospital Saraburi who had tattoos (n = 46) and simple random sampling of another group of 46 volunteer privates who did not have tattoos. RESULTS: All privates (N = 92) were male, age 22.88b 1.41 years, 67 (72.8%) had graduated from elementary and high school, 29 were positive for Hepatitis-B antibodies (31.5%), 41 (44.6%) had sex with prostitutes, 3 (3.3%) did not use condom, 4 (4.3%) shared razors, 1 (1.1%) shared needles, 25 (27.2%) had been in jail, 87 (94.6%) drank alcohol, 43 (46.7%) had used amphetamines. Twenty (28.6%) had tattoos on 2 arms. Ten (14.3%) had tattoo on their back, 9 (19.6%) obtained their tattoos while in prison, 15 (32.6%) had a tattoo that was greater than 20% of the body’s surface area. There was an association between skin tattoo and Hepatitis B (Chi Square, p < 0.01, OR: 15.9, 95%CI: 1.97–128.16), and an association between skin tattoo and having been in prison (Chi Square, p < 0.01, OR: 6.3, 95%CI: 2.1–18.8). There was no association between having been in jail and Hepatitis-B. Logistic regression was employed to find factors for Hepatitis-B. The variables that were associated with Hepatitis-B (<0.05) were entered procedure to identify association with Hepatitis-B. Hit rate was 87.9, Pseudo R Square 0.464, Skin tattoos, a history of a family member with Hepatitis-B, and sharing needles increased the chance of getting Hepatitis-B. CONCLUSIONS: There were associations between jails and tattoos and viral hepatitis-B. Hygiene in tattoo shops should be controlled by the government.

**TELITHROMYCIN (TEL) RESULTS IN FEWER HOSPITALIZATIONS THAN AMOXICILLIN-CLAVULANATE (AMC) IN THE OUTPATIENT TREATMENT OF ACUTE EXACERBATIONS OF CHRONIC BRONCHITIS (AECB)**

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OBJECTIVE: To compare the clinical efficacy, AECB-related hospitalization rates, and length of stay in hospital (LOS) in outpatients with AECB treated with either TEL or AMC. METHODS: Outpatients with AECB (n = 325) were enrolled in a randomized, double-blind, double-dummy, multicenter clinical study and received either oral TEL 800mg once daily for 5 days or AMC 500/125mg 3 times daily for 10 days. Clinical and economic outcomes were followed for 4 weeks. The primary