

Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease in High Mountain Kyrgyzstan

Nazgul Omurzakova, Akpay Sarybaev, Abdurashit Maripov, Kubat Muratali uulu

National Center of Cardiology and Internal Medicine, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

Despite the great achievements in the fight against rheumatic fever (RF), this disease is still a serious public health problem due to the widespread prevalence in most countries of the world, the disability of patients of young working age, which affects the economic level of development countries, including Kyrgyz Republic. The WHO Representative Office in Kyrgyz Republic in 2019 recognized RF and Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) as one of the urgent problems for the republic and urged the Ministry of Health to pay serious attention to this matter. The continued increase in the proportion of rheumatic fever and the existing risk of epidemic outbreaks of the disease, due to known negative socio-economical changes, make the situation with rheumatic fever urgent for public health of Kyrgyz Republic. The problem is made even more urgent by the special climatic and geographical conditions of Kyrgyzstan, where over 70% of the territory of which are located at altitudes of more than 3,000 m above sea level, and more than 25% of the population lives at altitudes of more than 2,000 m. There is a high level of registration of newly diagnosed RHD in children (42.3%), and the severe consequences of RF and RHD are detected mainly in the high regions of the republic. Presumably, the prevalence of group A streptococcus (GAS), rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease in the highlands is much higher compared to low mountains, and their course in the highlands has its own characteristics - it is more severe, has a tendency to more frequent relapses with worse outcomes.

Key words: Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatic Heart Disease, Group A streptococcus