

# **Incidence and outcomes of acute respiratory illness (ARI) with cough in urban Indigenous children**

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## **Introduction**

Studies suggest that 10% of children with an ARI have persistent cough at day-21. There are no studies in Indigenous children who have a high risk of chronic lung disease. We aimed to identify the incidence and outcomes of ARI with cough as a symptom in urban Indigenous children.

## **Methods**

A prospective study of Indigenous children aged <5 years registered with a primary health service. Children are followed for a period of 12 months via monthly contacts. Children who develop cough as a symptom at any time are followed weekly for four weeks to ascertain cough outcomes.

## **Results**

To date 162 children are enrolled, totalling 1065 child-months of observation. 200 ARI episodes with cough have been reported (29.6 episodes/100 child months at risk). 34 ARIs (17%) have progressed to persistent cough at day 28 in 24 children. Of these, 15 children had 1 episode, 5 had 2, 4 had 3 and 1 had 4 during the follow-up period. The majority of children with persistent cough were diagnosed (by a respiratory physician) with protracted bacterial bronchitis and/or bronchiectasis.

## **Conclusions**

The proportion of children developing persistent cough post ARI is higher than that currently reported (10%) with the majority suggesting protracted bacterial infection.

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**Declaration of interest**

None to declare