**Background**: Coronaviruses (HCoV) are a group of emerging viruses capable of infecting children more frequently than adults. HCoV essentially cause respiratory and enteric disease in humans.

**Aims**: To characterize coronavirus infection in the pediatric population.

**Methods**: Descriptive study of coronavirus infection in children hospitalized between 2015 and 2016. HCoV RNA was detected by RT-PCR of respiratory secretions. Demographic, clinical and laboratory parameters were studied.

**RESULTS**

### Samples studied by RT-PCR

- **TOTAL**: 1222
- **HCoV**: 45 patients (3.7%)
- **♂**: 62%
- **♀**: 38%
- **Median age**: 2 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HCoV-OC43</th>
<th>HCoV-229E</th>
<th>HCoV-NL63</th>
<th>HCoV-HKU1</th>
<th>Non identified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Seasonal distribution of HCoV positive samples

- **Median duration of hospitalization**: 8 days

### Co-infection 35 (77.8%) cases

- adenovirus (11)
- rhinovirus (10)
- RSV (8)
- bocavirus (6)
- influenza A/B (5)
- metapneumovirus (4)

### UNDERLYING CHRONIC DISEASE 18/45 (40%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neurological disease</th>
<th>Respiratory disease</th>
<th>Congenital heart disease</th>
<th>Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Clinical Diagnosis

- **HCoV-NL63** and **HCoV-HKU1** in underlying chronic disease (39%)
- **HCoV-NL63** most commonly associated with complications (33%)

### Discussion:

HCoVs were infrequently detected in the studied population but may have significant complications and occurred frequently in chronic disease. The role of coinfections is not yet well established.