

National Registry of Congenital Anomalies of the Czech Republic - a 45 year experience

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Aim and type of study: The registration of congenital anomalies in the Czech Republic has got a long tradition. The official registration started in 1964 and in 2009 it presents itself a consecutive 45 year long succession. The history of registration since its beginning until its contemporary status of National Register of Congenital Anomalies (NRCA) is presented. We also present the development of the registration methodics.

Methodology: A retrospective analysis of registration was on the surveillance of congenital anomalies in the Czech Republic and an assessment of both qualitative and quantitative changes in a development of NRCA in the Czech Republic. An analysis of basic data outcomes in prenatal diagnostics and perinatologic areas, examples of specific analyses.

Results: In the last decade, congenital anomalies are diagnosed in 3 - 4 % of births in the Czech Republic. An infant mortality due to lethal and other severe birth defects decreased from 1.5 per mille in 1993 to 0.5 per mille in 2005. Also, in last 15 years, prenatal diagnosis of congenital anomalies in the Czech Republic experienced an important development and contributed to a major decrease in frequency of some types of defects in births (neural tube defects, chromosomal aberrations, abdominal wall defects etc.).

Conclusions: NRCA of the Czech Republic is currently run by the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic. It registers all diagnoses according to Chapter XVII of the ICD-10. Registration covers the whole area of the Czech Republic and collects data on spontaneous abortions (500 grams and over), all prenatally diagnosed fetuses, stillbirths and births until the 15th year of age. In the Czech Republic, registration of congenital anomalies is compulsory and thus allows in-depth analyses and studies of both aggregated and individual anonymized data.