

Table 1 Varicella-associated illness among 187 hospitalized children in the United Arab Emirates, 2000–04

| Associated illnesses | No. of cases | % | Remarks |
|--|--------------|--------------|--|
| Fever | | | |
| Prolonged primary fever | 19 | 10.2 | Bacterial cultures negative |
| Secondary fever associated with: | | | |
| Respiratory tract infection | 38 | 20.3 | Included otitis media & lower respiratory tract infection without radiological evidence of pneumonia |
| Superficial skin infection | 36 | 19.3 | Group A Streptococcus cultured in 8 cases & Staphylococcus spp. in 12 cases |
| Dehydration | 29 | 15.5 | |
| Pneumonia | 7 | 3.7 | X-ray evidence: segmental, lobular |
| Cellulitis of neck & groin | 7 | 3.7 | Staphylococcus aureus cultured in 5 cases |
| Invasive group A Streptococcus septicaemia | 4 | 2.1 | |
| Pyogenic arthritis | 2 | 1.1 | |
| Neurological complications | | | |
| Cerebellar ataxia | 23 | 12.3 | |
| Brief seizures | 5 | 2.7 | |
| Aseptic meningitis | 3 | 1.6 | |
| Encephalitis | 1 | 0.5 | |
| Acute transverse myelitis | 1 | 0.5 | |
| Other | | | |
| Hepatitis | 7 | 3.7 | |
| Thrombocytopenia | 3 | 1.6 | |
| Acute glomerulonephritis | 2 | 1.1 | |
| Total | 187 | 100.0 | |