

**Table 1 Demographic data, related symptoms and some characteristics of children hospitalized with acute and persistent (acute phase) diarrhoea**

Symptoms and characteristics	Acute diarrhoea (n = 341)		Persistent diarrhoea (n = 83)		P-value
	No.	%	No.	%	
<i>Mean (SD) age (months)</i>	29.4 (29.6)		15.3 (17.4)		< 0.001
<i>Male:female ratio</i>	1.4		1.1		0.258
<i>Signs and symptoms</i>					
Abdominal pain	166	48.7	31	37.3	0.063
Nausea and vomiting	256	75.1	57	68.7	0.234
Loss of appetite	261	76.5	58	69.9	0.207
Fever	294	86.2	62	74.7	0.010
Defecation $\geq$ 6 times per 24 hours	210	61.6	60	72.3	0.069
Bloody stool	80	23.5	21	25.3	0.724
Mucoid stool	13	3.8	6	7.2	0.177
<i>Clinical history</i>					
Concurrent diseases present <sup>a</sup>	73	21.4	17	20.5	0.853
History of previous persistent diarrhoea	18	5.3	7	8.4	0.298
History of major diet change	36	10.6	17	20.5	0.014
Antibiotics	284	83.3	78	94.0	0.013
Anticholinergic drugs	18	5.3	10	12.0	0.026
Breastfed <sup>b</sup>	144	65.5	46	64.8	0.513

<sup>a</sup>Infections, immunodeficiency and gastrointestinal disorders.

<sup>b</sup>Data for children aged < 2 years only (n = 220 for acute diarrhoea and n = 71 for persistent diarrhoea group).

SD = standard deviation.