The impact of a tracheostomy on a patient's quality of life was assessed in this study. We compared quality of life of children with tracheostomy and decanulated children with controls.

6 children with tracheostomy, 6 decanulated children, 6 healthy children and their parents were included in the investigation. Parents of children between 2 and 18 years at follow-up completed the form of questionnaire PedsQL according the age.

### Introduction

Today, the survival rate of premature infants, requiring prolonged intubation, and infants with congenital malformations of the larynx increases. Also the number of children with a tracheostomy also increases.

Quality of life of the children with a tracheostomy remains investigated poorly in medicine. Evaluation of the quality of life is very important for observation of the patient condition.

### Results

Quality of life of children with tracheostomy is significantly worse than the norm population. Quality of life of decanulated patients is higher than patients with tracheostomy.

Emotional functioning is the best at the group of the healthy children and is the worst at the group of decanulated patients. The score of social and role functioning is the highest at the group of decanulated patients.

The latter may indicate that decanulated children feel themselves more social than the norm population, despite their extensive medical history.

Further, we plan to investigate the impact of comorbidity, social and domestic factors on the quality of life of children with tracheostomy.