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USE OF ARTICLES IN DISEASES AND SYMPTOMS
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Introduction. English names of diseases and symptoms are used worldwide in medical publications (e.g. case reports, journal articles, etc.) as a necessity. In our view, numerous Belarusian medical researchers and practitioners, willing to publish their works internationally, might experience certain difficulty placing the names of diseases and symptoms with or without articles, both definite and indefinite. However, their use is not particularly studied in the English language course at the Faculty of General Medicine. That is why we would like to contribute to the students' learning outcomes by introducing this study of the use of articles in diseases and symptoms.

Aim:

- 1) To study published case reports and scientific-popular Internet publications in order to collect examples of mentioned diseases with and/or without articles;
- 2) To analyze the collected material and present the results in the form of a written report at the BSMU students' conference;
- 3) To prepare a learning material for BSMU students willing to be trained to use the articles in diseases and symptoms.

Materials and methods. We have studied published case reports and scientific-popular Internet publications and collected 50 contextual examples of diseases with and without articles. The collected material was analyzed and enabled us to draw a conclusion that In English, the names of diseases are uncountable nouns. Therefore, the articles with the names of diseases are not usually used. This applies, for example, to diseases such as : *AIDS, allergy, insomnia, chicken pox, dermatitis, meningitis, cellulites, bronchitis, maxillary sinusitis, pneumonia, diabetes, tuberculosis, cancer, sclerosis, appendicitis, diphtheria, etc.* But the use of the definite article in English with some of the names of diseases, is not an exception, e.g: the plague, the mumps, the measles, the flu etc.: *The mumps is caused by a virus. Bronchopneumonia is a serious complication of the measles. The latest epidemic of the plague was in the late 19th century.* If we are talking about the use of articles with names of diseases on «-ache», in English the names of diseases can be used without the article or in the company of the indefinite article, e.g. *I've had a stomachache all morning. I've got terrible toothache. I've got a splitting headache.*

Results. The results of the study have been implemented in the learning material for BSMU students willing to be trained to use the articles in diseases and symptoms, with the hope to be introduced into the training process.

Conclusion. In most cases, names of diseases and symptoms are used without articles according to the general rule, several exceptions being traditionally made for certain diseases. The indefinite article is used in diseases and symptoms accompanied by adjectives.