Introduction:
Cow's milk protein allergy is the most common food allergy, affecting approximately 2-3% of infants until the age of 3, in industrialized countries. It seems to be important to understand the impact of this problem in the pediatric population.

Material and Methods:
An observational, longitudinal, retrospective study of all infants followed in our department (from January of 1995 to December of 2004) with the diagnosis of cow's milk protein sensitization was made. Their allergy work-up included specific IgE determinations using CAP technology performed against alpha-lactalbumin (ALA), beta-lactoglobulin (BLG), casein and also soy protein. The following data was also analyzed: sex and age of sensitisation, type of feeding, symptoms of allergic disease (atopic dermatitis, wheezing and gastrointestinal symptoms) and the relationship between symptoms and sensitization pattern.

Results:
A total of 153 infants (87 boys and 66 girls) was studied; from this group, 114 (74%) showed sensitization to ALA, 98 (64%) to casein, 97 (63%) to BLG and 12 (7.8%) to soy protein. One third of all children showed sensitization to the three cow's milk proteins. Initial clinical symptoms were seen between 1 and 108 months of age. Major clinical signs were wheezing in 52.9% and atopic dermatitis, found in 32.7%.

Conclusions:
We could not find any variation in the pattern of sensitization to milk or soy proteins during the ten years included in the study. Boys were more often sensitized to cow's milk protein than girls. A relation was found between sensitization to ALA and wheezing, as well as between BLG and atopic dermatitis.