

Snippets

Snippets from the world wide web

Sri Lanka Journal of Child Health, 2006; **35**: 67-8

Betamethasone Preferable to Dexamethasone for Antenatal Prophylaxis

Results of a retrospective study suggest that antenatal betamethasone but not dexamethasone given to pregnant mothers with impending delivery of a very preterm infant (24 to 34 weeks gestation) reduces the risk of neonatal death. Dexamethasone is associated with an increased risk of neonatal death when compared with betamethasone.

<http://mp.medscape.com/cgi-bin/1/DM/y/e2pj0EIZ1O0DzQ0HXTI0E1>

Early Vancomycin Raises Risk of Hearing Loss in Children With Meningitis

In children with pneumococcal meningitis, empiric vancomycin administered less than 2 hours after the first dose of cefotaxime or ceftriaxone confers no clinical benefit and increases risk of hearing loss, suggest results of a retrospective study.

<http://mp.medscape.com/cgi-bin/1/DM/y/e2pj0EIZ1O0DzQ0HXRY0Ez>

Young Day-Care Children at Extra Risk for Allergy Symptoms

Preschool age children who attend day care have a heightened risk of respiratory and allergic symptoms, according to results of a study conducted by Swedish researchers.

<http://mp.medscape.com/cgi-bin/1/DM/y/e2pj0EIZ1O0DzQ0HXQC0Ec>

Ciprofloxacin Use in Very Low Birth Weight Infants Safe in the Short-Term

Ciprofloxacin use in very low birth weight neonates has been found to have no effect on linear growth at 1 year of age, researchers from India report.

<http://mp.medscape.com/cgi-bin/1/DM/y/e2pj0EIZ1O0DzQ0HXRZ0E1>

HTERT Expression Points to Prognosis of Pediatric Brain Tumors

Expression of human telomere reverse transcriptase (HTERT) predicts the progression and survival of patients with pediatric intracranial ependymoma, the third most common type of brain tumor in children. The 5-year survival rate is about 50%, Canadian researchers report.

<http://mp.medscape.com/cgi-bin/1/DM/y/e2pj0EIZ1O0DzQ0HXQ10EK>

Treatment of Children With Diabetic Ketoacidosis Differs From Adult Treatment

Children with diabetic ketoacidosis present differently and require different treatment than adults with DKA, according to newly published guidelines from the American Diabetes Association.

<http://mp.medscape.com/cgi-bin/1/DM/y/e2pj0EIZ1O0DzQ0HXPb0E7>

Off-Label Prescribing Common, Often Lacks Scientific Support

Approximately 1 out of every 5 medications prescribed by US physicians are for conditions that the drugs have not been approved for by the FDA, new study results suggest. Moreover, three quarters of these off-label uses are not backed by strong scientific evidence for safety and efficacy, the authors report.

<http://mp.medscape.com/cgi-bin/1/DM/y/e2pj0EIZ1O0DzQ0HXNv0EQ>

Newborns Treated for High Bilirubin Levels Show No Neurodevelopmental Impairment

A cohort comparison study suggests that newborns born at term or near term with bilirubin levels at or above 25 mg/dL who were properly treated did not have adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes.

<http://mp.medscape.com/cgi-bin/1/DM/y/e2Zc0EIZ1O0DzQ0HWC20Eb>

Human Metapneumovirus May Be Common in Infants

A prospective study evaluating the clinical characteristics of human metapneumovirus showed that it was common in infants younger than 2 years, with symptoms indistinguishable from RSV.

<http://mp.medscape.com/cgi-bin/DM/y/e21e0EIZ1O0DzQ0HU6d0Ev>

Course of Stress Fractures in the Juvenile Skeletal System Often Prolonged

The resolution of stress fractures in children and adolescents, while rare, can be protracted because of delays in diagnosis and inappropriate initial treatment, German and Austrian researchers report.

<http://mp.medscape.com/cgi-bin/DM/y/e21e0EIZ1O0DzQ0HU8x0EJ>

Oral Sildenafil Feasible for Persistent Pulmonary Hypertension in Infants

A proof-of-concept study of oral sildenafil in infants with persistent pulmonary hypertension was stopped early because of marked efficacy of active treatment over placebo.

<http://mp.medscape.com/cgi-bin/DM/y/e21e0EIZ1O0DzQ0HVAE0Ec>

Probiotic Yogurt May Help Eradicate H. pylori Infection

In a randomized study, probiotic yogurt enhanced the effectiveness of quadruple therapy for H. pylori.

<http://mp.medscape.com/cgi-bin/DM/y/e1160EIZ1O0DzQ0HTb70Eh>

Radiofrequency Reduction of Tonsils Less Painful Than Complete Tonsillectomy

For children with obstructive sleep apnea due to hypertrophic tonsils, palatine tonsil reduction with a temperature-controlled radio frequency electrode is as effective as traditional tonsillectomy using electrocautery, but causes less postoperative morbidity, results of a prospective pilot study suggest.

<http://mp.medscape.com/cgi-bin/DM/y/e21e0EIZ1O0DzQ0HVAF0Ed>

Rectal Bleeding in Infants May Be Self-Limited

This condition may be related to abnormal gut flora; cow's milk allergy was less common than previously thought and should be confirmed by rechallenge.

<http://mp.medscape.com/cgi-bin/DM/y/e1160EIZ1O0DzQ0HTZc0EJ>

Isotonic Saline Best IV Rehydration of Children With Gastroenteritis

Isotonic saline is preferable to hypotonic saline for intravenous rehydration of children with gastroenteritis because it protects against hyponatremia without causing hypernatremia, clinicians from Australia report in the April issue of the Archives of Diseases of Childhood.

<http://mp.medscape.com/cgi-bin/DM/y/e1160EIZ1O0DzQ0HTZv0Ec>

B J C Perera
Joint Editor