

## Snippets

### Snippets from the worldwide web

*Sri Lanka Journal of Child Health*, 2010; 39:24-25

#### ***Pregnancy-Limited HIV Antiretroviral Therapy Promotes Drug Resistance***

HIV-infected women who take antiretroviral drugs for the first time when they become pregnant and discontinue them after delivery are likely to develop antiretroviral resistance, new research suggests.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/713911?src=mp&spon=1&uac=60307BR>

#### ***Novel Gene Linked to Childhood-Onset Asthma***

Discovery of this gene and its role in the immune system may suggest new therapeutic targets. The *DENND1B* gene, located on chromosome 1, affects cells and signaling molecules thought to play a key role in immune system hyperactivity seen in asthma. The gene mutations in *DENND1B* appear to lead to overproduction of cytokines that subsequently drive this oversensitive response in asthma patients.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/714273?src=mp&spon=13&uac=60307BR>

#### ***Procalcitonin Testing Can Cut Antibiotic Use for Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia***

A multicenter study shows that a procalcitonin-guided serum measurement strategy can reduce antibiotic overuse in patients with ventilator-associated pneumonia.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/713693?src=mp&spon=13&uac=60307BR>

#### ***IV Sildenafil Safe and Effective for Pulmonary Hypertension in Neonates: Phase I Study***

Intravenous sildenafil safely improves oxygenation in critically ill neonates with persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn (PPHN). These findings, the results of an open-label, dose-escalation trial, are reported in the December issue of the *Journal of Pediatrics*.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/713684?src=mp&spon=9&uac=60307BR>

#### ***Delaying Solid Foods in Infant Diet May Increase Later Risk for Allergies***

In a prospective cohort study, late introduction of solid foods into the infant diet was associated with an increased risk for allergic sensitization to food and inhalant allergens.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/713728?src=mp&spon=13&uac=60307BR>

#### ***Ketogenic Diet Gaining Popularity in Epilepsy***

The ketogenic diet can be so effective in epilepsy that those who use it routinely say it should be considered first line. Specialists here at the American Epilepsy Society 63rd Annual Scientific Conference debated the mechanism of seizure control and discussed the diet's potential as a first-line therapy.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/714005?src=mp&spon=9&uac=60307BR>

#### ***Enemas, Oral Laxatives Equally Effective for Childhood Fecal Impaction***

A randomized controlled trial suggests that treatment with rectal enema and oral laxatives be considered equally as first-line therapy for childhood fecal impaction.

<http://mp.medscape.com/cgi-bin1/DM/y/hCnuJ0EIZ100DzO0KsKX0E2&uac=60307BR>

#### ***One in 10 Births Around World Premature, WHO Says***

One in 10 of the some 130 million births around the world each year is premature, the vast majority in poorer countries where chances of survival are low, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Monday. An article in the U.N. agency's January bulletin also reported a "dramatic rise" in pre-term births in a range of richer countries over the past 20 years, especially in North America and parts of Europe.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/714576?src=mp&spon=9&uac=60307BR>

***High-Dose Inhaled Steroids for Asthma May Increase Risk of Fetal Malformations***

The congenital malformation rate for pregnant women who used more than 1000 micrograms per day was much higher than that seen in nonusers and in users of no more than 1000 micrograms per day.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/714053?src=mp&spon=9&uac=60307BR>

***Omalizumab Helps Control Refractory Allergic Asthma in Children***

When allergic asthma in children can't be controlled with medium- to high-dose corticosteroids, add-on omalizumab is effective and well tolerated, new research shows.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/714032?src=mp&spon=9&uac=60307BR>

***Preeclampsia Linked With Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia in Premies***

If a mother with preeclampsia gives birth prematurely, her baby is at increased risk for bronchopulmonary dysplasia, researchers report in the December 14 issue of the *Journal of Pediatrics*.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/714280?src=mp&spon=9&uac=60307BR>

***Pentavalent Rotavirus Vaccine May Be Highly Effective Against Severe Disease***

Pentavalent rotavirus vaccine (RV5) is highly effective against severe rotavirus disease, and even partial immunization provides significant health benefits, according to the results of a case-control study reported online January 18 and to be published in the February print issue of *Pediatrics*.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/715837?src=mp&spon=9&uac=60307BR>

***Poor Glucose Homeostasis in Childhood May Predict Adult Prediabetes***

A heart study shows that adverse levels of glucose homeostasis variables in childhood persist into adulthood, predict adult prediabetes and type 2 diabetes, and relate to cardiometabolic risk factors.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/714374?src=mp&spon=9&uac=60307BR>

***Maternal Benefits of Breast-Feeding: Less Risk of Vascular Disease***

More evidence that breast-feeding likely has long-term health benefits for the mother as well as the child has emerged from a new US study. Women who had never breast-fed were more likely to have vascular changes associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease than those who had consistently breast-fed their children, Dr Eleanor Bimla Schwartz (University of Pittsburgh Center for Research on Health Care, PA) and colleagues discovered. They report their findings in the January 2010 issue of *Obstetrics & Gynecology*.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/714629?src=mp&spon=9&uac=60307BR>

***Management of Acute Otitis Media Without Antibiotics Has Not Increased***

The management of acute otitis media (AOM) without antibiotics has not increased after publication of the 2004 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) clinical practice guideline on AOM allowing "watchful waiting," according to the results of a study reported Online First January 25 and to be published in the February issue of *Pediatrics*.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/715748?src=mp&spon=9&uac=60307BR>

**B J C Perera**  
*Joint Editor*