

Snippets

Snippets from the worldwide web

Sri Lanka Journal of Child Health, 2011; 40: 26-27

Early Antibiotic Use Linked to Asthma and Allergy at Age 6 Years

Early antibiotic use by age 6 months is linked to asthma and allergy at age 6 years, according to the results of a cohort study reported online December 29, 2010, in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*. "Early antibiotic exposure, especially to broad-spectrum antibiotics, may suppress the developing immune system and produce a reduced anti-allergic response," said senior author Michael B. Bracken.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/735583>

Triple-Drug Regimen Reduces Risk for Maternal–Child HIV Transmission

Triple-drug antiretroviral therapy (ART) during pregnancy and breast-feeding safely reduces the risk for mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV infection, according to the findings of a randomized controlled trial conducted in Africa. Compared with the standard regimen of zidovudine taken during pregnancy, plus a single dose of nevirapine during labor, the triple-drug ART reduced the risk for HIV transmission during breast-feeding by 53%, the investigators report online today in *Lancet Infectious Diseases*. The cumulative rate of MTCT at 12 months was 43% lower in the triple-ART group compared with standard therapy.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/735805>

WHO Reviews GSK H1N1 Flu Shot After Narcolepsy Link

The World Health Organization is reviewing the safety of GlaxoSmithKline's Pandemrix H1N1 flu vaccine after a Finnish study suggested children who got the shot were nine times more likely to suffer from narcolepsy. Researchers at Finland's National Institute for Health and Welfare (NIHW) said on Tuesday their research suggested it was "most likely" the increase they found in narcolepsy was a joint effect of Pandemrix and some other factor or factors.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/736614>

Myelination Mapped in the Infant Brain for the First Time

A neuroimaging technique developed by researchers in England provides new insight into normal brain myelination during the first 12 months of life. "We have noninvasively mapped myelin content throughout the brain in healthy infants for the first time, providing the first quantitative visualization of brain myelination in vivo," the authors report.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/736068>

Recommendation of 6 Months of Breast-Feeding Scrutinized

The evidence in favor of 6 months of exclusive breast-feeding has come under scrutiny in a new review article. The review article assessing the evidence was published by researcher Mary Fewtrell, MD, from the Child Nutrition Research Center at the University College London Institute of Child Health, United Kingdom, and colleagues was published online January 13 in the *BMJ*.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/735887>

Fruits and Veggies May Not Lower Kids' Allergy Risk

Eating more fruits and vegetables may not protect children from developing allergies, according to a large Swedish study. Fruits and vegetables are rich in antioxidants, which are thought to reduce airway inflammation. So recent studies reporting less asthma, wheezing and hay fever among children who consumed more greens appeared to make sense. But not all research has found that link, and the studies that did may have had a surprising flaw, said Dr. Helen Rosenlund of Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, who led the new study. She said some proteins in fruits like apples and pears resemble the pollen parts that trigger hay fever, meaning that kids might react to both. In other words, existing allergies may have caused them to eat around the greens, rather than the other way around.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/737231>

WHO Recommends Food Marketing Curbs for Child Obesity

Governments must work with industry to restrict advertising of foods high in salt, sugar and dangerous fats targeted at children to tackle an epidemic of obesity and other diseases, health officials said on Friday. The call is part of a focus on combating non-communicable diseases -- cancer, diabetes, heart and lung disease -- that are a growing cause of premature death in poor countries.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/736140>

Different Ventilation Devices Prompt Same SPO2 in Neonates

For infants of less than 29 weeks of gestation, positive pressure ventilation via a T-piece or a self-inflating bag achieves comparable levels of oxygen saturation (SPO2), researchers report in the online January Journal of Pediatrics. As Dr. Jennifer A. Dawson told Reuters Health by email, "Clinicians using a T-piece or a self-inflating bag to give ventilation to very preterm infants were able to achieve similar oxygen saturation measurements at 5 minutes after birth. However, we observed some differences in how clinicians used the two devices."

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/736485>

Antimicrobial Treatment of Acute Otitis Media May Be Helpful in Children

Antimicrobial treatment of acute otitis media may be helpful in children, according to the results of 2 randomized controlled trials reported in the January 12 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/735668>

Mitochondrial Dysfunction Linked to Autism

Mitochondrial dysfunction (MD) is more common in children with autism and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) than the general population, a comprehensive systematic review and meta-analysis of relevant research confirms. Mitochondrial dysfunction "may play a significant role in contributing to the symptoms of autism and is generally underrecognized in these children," Daniel A. Rossignol, MD, of the International Child Development Resource Center, Melbourne, Florida, told *Medscape Medical News*.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/736560>

Zinc Within 24 Hours of Symptom Onset May Be Helpful for Common Cold

When given within 24 hours of onset of symptoms, zinc reduces the duration and severity of the common cold in healthy people, according to the results of a Cochrane systematic review reported online February 16 in the *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*. "This review strengthens the evidence for zinc as a treatment for the common cold," said lead author Dr. Meenu Singh, from the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research in Chandigarh, India, in a news release. "However, at the moment, it is still difficult to make a general recommendation, because we do not know very much about the optimum dose, formulation or length of treatment."

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/737654>

Low Apgar Score Linked to Increased Risk for ADHD

A low score on Apgar, a test that evaluates physical signs during the first 5 minutes of a newborn's life, may be linked to an increased risk for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), new research suggests. In a population study of all children born between 1988 and 2001 in Denmark, investigators found that those with the lowest scores had a 75% higher risk of developing ADHD in childhood than those with the highest scores.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/737669>

ADHD Linked to Impaired Motor Cortex Inhibition

Two new studies provide evidence that attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), a condition characterized by lack of focus, impulsiveness, and hyperactivity, is a distinct condition characterized by impaired inhibitory function in the brain. Both studies used the motor system as a window into brain function, and both support the hypothesis that inhibition is an important mechanism in cognition and behavior function, writes Jonathan W. Mink, MD, from the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York, in an accompanying editorial entitled "Faulty Brakes? Inhibitory Processes in Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder."

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/737530>

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