

Snippets

Snippets from the worldwide web

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Doctors Frequently Make Mistakes with Young Athletes' ECGs

An analysis of pre-participation screening electrocardiograms (ECGs) for young athletes suggests that cardiologists frequently make mistakes when interpreting the results. Such mistakes could lead to high rates of inappropriate recommendations to patients for participation in sports, as well as higher costs associated with more diagnostic tests, say researchers.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/746408>

Maternal Depression Leads to Brain Changes in Children

Children who grow up with a depressed mother, who probably is not as attentive as a non-depressed mother, may develop an enlarged amygdala, the part of the brain linked to emotional responses, a new study suggests.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/748194>

Kids May Be Safer With Grandparents Driving: Study

When children are involved in a car accident, they are less likely to be injured if grandma or grandpa is driving rather than mom or dad, a new study suggests. The study, published online July 18 in *Pediatrics*, looked at five years of data on U.S. car crashes involving children younger than 16.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/746609>

Low-Carb Diets May Improve Acne

Low-carb eating plans may do more than promote weight loss. These diets may also improve acne. Although the few studies conducted on this topic have yielded mixed results, "theoretically, people with acne may have hyperinsulinaemia and foods that are low in the glycaemic index (GI) may contribute to the hormonal control of acne," says Alan R. Shalita, MD, the distinguished teaching professor and chairman of the department of dermatology at SUNY Downstate Medical Centre in New York.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/747823>

PREDICT: Early ART May Not Improve Paediatric HIV Survival

Immediate antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation in children of at least 1 year of age with HIV infection and moderate immunodeficiency did not significantly increase AIDS-free survival or improve neurodevelopmental outcome compared with when ART initiation was deferred until the child had a CD4 cell count lower than 15%, suggest new findings from 144 weeks of follow-up of the PREDICT study.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/746687>

Propranolol Improves Haemangiomas in Infants and Children

Six months of propranolol reduced the volume, elevation, and colour of infantile haemangiomas in a recent randomized study in Australia. Several case series have shown dramatic involution of infantile haemangiomas with propranolol. Indeed, many physicians are prescribing propranolol as first-line treatment, the researchers on the randomized trial say in the August issue of *Pediatrics*.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/747141>

Cell Phones Not Linked to Brain Tumours in Children

A new study has found that children and adolescents who use cell phones do not appear to be at a higher risk for brain cancer, adding to the ongoing debate about the possible association between cell phone use and brain tumours. The study looked at children and adolescents who were diagnosed with a brain tumour. The team found that patients with tumours were not statistically significantly more likely to have been regular cell phone users than control subjects.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/747132>

Folic Acid in Pregnancy Not Tied to Asthma in Offspring

Folic acid intake during the first trimester of pregnancy is not related to asthma in young offspring, U.S. and Norwegian researchers report.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/747717>

New Therapy Continues to Show Promise in Duchenne's

In a phase 2 study of boys with Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), repeated intravenous injections of the targeted antisense oligonucleotide AVI-4658 (AVI BioPharma) induced specific exon 51 skipping and significant dystrophin restoration, with no clear drug-related serious adverse effects.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/747065>

Boys Who Masturbate Could Be Likelier to Have Safe Sex

Masturbation could play an important role in sexual self-awareness and condom use in teenage boys, according to a new report. Eighty-six percent of boys who masturbated during the past year said they'd worn a condom last time they had sex, compared to only 44% of boys who didn't masturbate.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/747367>

Magnetic Field Exposure in Utero Linked to Later Asthma

Exposure to high levels of magnetic fields during pregnancy may increase the risk for asthma in offspring, according to new epidemiologic findings, published online August 1 in the *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*. According to the researchers, recent studies suggest that electromagnetic fields could adversely affect reproductive outcomes and the immune system, and may have a direct effect on brain cell activities. "Therefore, it is conceivable that exposure to high [electromagnetic frequencies], especially during pregnancy (the period of fetal development), may have an impact on the risk of asthma in offspring," they write. To investigate this association further, the researchers conducted a prospective cohort study of pregnant women whose daily exposure to magnetic fields was captured objectively by a metre during pregnancy. Their 626 children were followed for asthma diagnosis for up to 13 years after they were born. Overall, 130 children (20.8%) of the study participants developed asthma during 13 years of follow-up, with more than 80% of children diagnosed by 5 years of age.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/747329>

Prolonged Empirical Antibiotics in Premies Linked to Adverse Outcomes

Premature infants who get empirical antibiotic therapy for five days or more are at higher risk for late-onset sepsis, necrotizing enterocolitis and death, according to a new report. "Judicious restriction of antibiotic use should be investigated as a strategy to reduce severe outcomes for premature infants," the authors suggested in a July 25th online paper in the *Journal of Pediatrics*.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/747752>

Persistent Microscopic Hematuria Linked to Higher ESRD Risk

Persistent microscopic hematuria in adolescents and young adults is linked to higher long-term risk for end-stage renal disease (ESRD), according to the results of a retrospective, population-based study reported in the August 17 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/748423>

Steroids May Alleviate Acute Pyelonephritis in Children

Adjunctive treatment with oral methylprednisolone may lower the occurrence and/or severity of renal scarring in children hospitalized for acute pyelonephritis, according to the results of a randomized controlled trial reported online in the August 15 issue of *Pediatrics*.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/748377>

Febrile Urinary Tract Infections in Children

The management of febrile urinary tract infections in children is changing, according to the results of a clinical review published in the July 21 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/746735>

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