

Snippets

Snippets from the worldwide web

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Folic Acid Supplements in Pregnancy May Help Avoid Toddler Speech Delay

Women who took folic acid supplements in the first two months of pregnancy were less likely to have kids with severe language delays in a new study from Norway. "We don't think people should change their behaviour based on these findings," said Dr. Ezra Susser from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health in New York, who worked on the study and added "But it does add weight to the public health recommendation to take folic acid early in pregnancy,"

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/751373>

Early Cortical Growth Important in Premies

After preterm delivery, the rate of growth of the cerebral cortex between 24 and 44 weeks postmenstrual age (PMA) predicts global neurocognitive ability later in childhood, results of a study suggest. "In babies born preterm, the more the cerebral cortex grows early in life the better children perform complex tasks when they reach 6 years old," A. David Edwards, DSc, FMedSci, from the Department of Paediatrics at Hammersmith Hospital, London, United Kingdom, noted in a statement.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/751423>

Adjuvanted H1N1 Flu Vaccine Highly Protective in Children

Ten days after administration, a single paediatric dose of adjuvanted vaccine against pandemic influenza A/H1N1 (pH1N1) is more than 80% effective for preventing hospitalization in children, a Canadian team reports in the November issue of *Pediatrics*. "In the context of vaccination given during the course of an epidemic, rapid onset of protection with a single dose of vaccine is desirable," the authors point out.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/751307>

Sleep Disturbance in Breastfed Babies Is Temporary

Babies who are breastfed wake more often at night and have more fragmented sleep than bottle-fed babies, but these sleep disruptions resolve over time, according to research presented here at the

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) 2011 National Conference and Exhibition. These disrupted sleep patterns stabilize and by 6 months, infants who were exclusively breastfed had equal sleep skills, including falling asleep, staying asleep, and total sleep time at night.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/751773>

Postop Respiratory Complications in Obese Asthmatic Children

Obese asthmatic children were 3 times more likely to develop at least 1 respiratory complication during or after surgery than their normal-weight non-asthmatic peers, researchers reported here at the American Society of Anesthesiologists 2011 Annual Meeting. Respiratory adverse events remain one of the major causes of morbidity and mortality during pediatric anesthesia, and are responsible for approximately 30% of perioperative cardiac arrests in children. Obesity and asthma are commonly cited as risk factors for these events, although their joint contribution has not been well studied.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/751771>

Kids May Do Better With Prompt ACL Repair

When a child or adolescent tears an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), waiting more than three months to repair it leads to higher rates of irreparable medial meniscal tears and lateral compartment chondral injuries, new research shows. In skeletally immature patients with significant growth remaining, the risk of inducing a growth disturbance with early reconstruction must be balanced against the risk of further intra-articular damage by delaying treatment until closer to skeletal maturity.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/751660>

Fortified Rice Improves Iron Deficiency in Kids

Iron-fortified rice reduced the rate of iron deficiency in young school children in India, in a recently published randomized trial. Ferritin levels went up by roughly a third in children fed fortified rice with their midday meal, the researchers reported. But while the prevalence of iron deficiency was lower in the intervention group, there was no difference in rates of anaemia or iron-

deficiency anaemia at the end of the eight-month trial. Even sub-clinical iron deficiency has profound effects on health of young children, the researchers point out.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/751512>

Kids' Urinary Infections Usually Not a Kidney Risk

Most children with recurrent urinary tract infections (UTIs) are not at increased risk of chronic kidney disease later in life, a new meta-analysis suggests. "If there is no structural abnormalities in the kidney ultrasound after the first UTI, the parents should not be worried at all" about the risk of chronic kidney disease, said lead researcher Dr. Jarmo Salo of the University of Oulu in Finland. Recurrent UTIs in young children have been seen as a possible risk factor for chronic kidney disease later in life, especially in cases with vesicoureteral reflux (VUR).

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/751396>

Ultrasound Screening of Infants Reduces Hip Dysplasia Surgeries

Compliance with recommended ultrasound screening of infants within six weeks of birth is associated with fewer operations for dysplasia of the hip, according to findings published in the Journal of Pediatrics online September 29. However, "even state-of-the-art therapy of developmental dysplasia of the hip diagnosed in the first 6 weeks of life may not always prevent the need for later operative treatment," the authors point out.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/752228>

Moderately Preterm Kids Show Slower Early Growth

Children born moderately preterm are more than twice as likely as full-term children to grow poorly in the first years of life, new research shows. In what they say is the largest and one of the first-ever longitudinal studies of growth in children born at 32 to 36 weeks, the researchers found these kids were shorter, and weighed less, compared to children born at term, through age four.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/752197>

Sildenafil Treats Pediatric Pulmonary Hypertension

Sildenafil citrate (Revatio) improved breathing in children with pulmonary arterial hypertension, but only in medium to high doses, a new study found. Sildenafil is already approved for this indication in adults. The drug is usually dosed according to a weight threshold: 10 mg t.i.d. in patients up to 20 kg, and 20 mg t.i.d. in heavier patients. Higher than recommended doses can increase mortality, the drug's manufacturer Pfizer warned in a letter to physicians issued on September 20. But the 16-week trial that saw the breathing improvements gave higher doses to some children. The lowest dose was 10 mg t.i.d. for children who weighed 8-20 kg, and the highest dose was 80 mg t.i.d. for children who weighed more than 45 kg.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/752750>

No Evidence ADHD Meds Increase Cardiovascular Risk

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) medications do not increase the risk for serious cardiovascular events, new research shows. A retrospective cohort study of more than 1 million children and young adults found no significant differences in serious cardiac episodes among those who did not use ADHD medications, current users, and former users. In addition, only 3.1 serious cardiovascular events were found per 100,000 person-years.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/752669>

HBA1c Unreliable for Pediatric Screening

Hemoglobin A1c is not a reliable marker of dysglycemia in overweight or obese children and adolescents, researchers say. "Despite the new guidelines recommending the use of hemoglobin A1c for diagnosis of diabetes, it is not as reliable a test for identifying children with diabetes or at high risk for diabetes," lead author Dr. Joyce M. Lee from University of Michigan in Ann Arbor told. She suggests that doctors "consider ordering alternative tests, such as a random glucose or a 1 hour nonfasting glucose tolerance test."

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/752339>

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