

Snippets

Snippets from the worldwide web

Sri Lanka Journal of Child Health, 2012; **41**(1): 38-39

Nevirapine Safely Lowers HIV-1 Transmission by Breast-Feeding

A daily oral dose of nevirapine given to infants up to 6 months of age can safely reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV-1 via breast-feeding, according to the results of a phase 3, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial published online December 23 in the *Lancet*. Nevirapine given once-daily for the first 6, 14, or 28 weeks of life to infants exposed to HIV-1 via breastfeeding reduces transmission through this route compared with single-dose nevirapine at birth or neonatally.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/756535>

No Intussusception Rise Seen With Vaccine Reintroduction

The reintroduction of rotavirus vaccination in the United States has not resulted in an increase in hospitalization for intussusception among infants, according to a study published online January 2, 2012, in the *Archives of Pediatric Adolescent Medicine*. A live, attenuated tetravalent rotavirus vaccine (*RotaShield*, Wyeth) that was introduced in 1998 was withdrawn a year later amid concerns of an increased risk for the severe bowel obstruction among infants within several weeks of their being vaccinated.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/756485>

Bacterial Infection Common With Children's Chronic Wet Cough

Purulent bronchitis is common among children with chronic wet cough, according to a retrospective study published online January 9, 2012, in *Pediatrics*. In addition, 56% of the children in the study, all of whom had been referred to a paediatric pulmonary clinic because of an intractable wet cough, had bacterial infections of the lower airway. The investigators, also found that tracheomalacia was identified on bronchoscopy far more frequently in the 0- to 3-year-old children in their study (30.3%) than in the general paediatric population.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/756559?src=mpnews&spon=9>

Half of Asthma Patients Do Not Respond to Standard Therapy

Approximately one half of patients with mild-to-moderate asthma are unlikely to respond to currently available anti-inflammatory therapy because they have persistently non-eosinophilic disease, according to the results of a cross-sectional study published online January 6, 2012, in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/756482>

More RSV Hospitalizations Found Among Babies With Down Syndrome

Infants with Down syndrome are at increased risk for hospitalization due to respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), a new study shows. Down syndrome and other conditions, including congenital heart disease (CHD), have recently been recognized as risk factors for the infection.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/756932>

Potential New Treatment Target for Retinoblastoma

Childhood retinoblastoma is a rare and aggressive cancer that can be fatal if diagnosed at an advanced stage. Researchers have now shed light on the mechanisms underlying the rapid progression of the disease, and have identified a potential treatment target and promising therapeutic approaches. The findings are published online January 11 in *Nature*. The researchers found that the expression of the proto-oncogene spleen tyrosine kinase (SYK) is upregulated in retinoblastoma and is required for tumour cell survival. Their "key discovery" was that SYK is important in retinoblastoma. The researchers showed that the inhibition of SYK with a small-molecule inhibitor caused cell death in retinoblastoma cells in culture and in vivo. Experimental drugs targeting the SYK protein are already in clinical trials for adults with leukaemia and rheumatoid arthritis; this discovery suggests that they might also be applicable in retinoblastoma.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/756864>

Comorbidities Likely in Children With Epilepsy

An estimated 1% of children in the United States have epilepsy or a seizure disorder, a new report shows. This rate is slightly higher than previous assessments and was associated with a growing number of developmental and mental health comorbidities in children with seizures. This underscores the need for a proactive approach to the prevention of comorbidities, and a more structured approach to early detection and management.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/757517>

Dentists Overuse Antibiotics in Children

A survey has suggested that most dentists tend to overprescribe antibiotics in children, researchers report in an article published in the January issue of the *Journal of the American Dental Association*. The study, in which 154 North Carolina dentists indicated how they would treat hypothetical cases, found that adherence to professional prescribing guidelines ranged from 10% to 42%.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/757277>

Coronary Artery Lesions Develop If Kawasaki Disease Treatment Is Delayed

Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) started 10 days or more after onset of Kawasaki disease (KD) suppresses inflammation but does not prevent coronary artery lesions, a Japanese team reported this week. The authors note that the effectiveness of giving IVIG within 10 days of onset of KD symptoms is well established, but the value of later treatment is not clear. To investigate, they analyzed data from a recent nationwide survey of KD in Japan that included 23,337 patients diagnosed in 2007 and 2008.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/757168>

Moms' Bossiness at Snack Time Tied to Kids' Weight

Mothers who push their toddlers to eat more at snack time may end up with a heavier child, a new study suggests. Researchers found that when moms were overly "intrusive" during their young children's snack time, their kids tended to be a bit chubbier by the age of three. It's not clear whether parents' pushiness actually leads to excess weight gain in their preschoolers. And the weight differences seen in this study were small.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/758021>

Oral Antibiotics Effective for Acute Pyelonephritis in Children

Oral antibiotics seem to work just as well as sequential IV/oral antibiotics for acute pyelonephritis in children, French researchers report. The standard management of acute pyelonephritis in children starts with IV antibiotics, despite evidence that oral-only treatment would not increase the risk of renal scarring, Dr. Cheron and colleagues wrote in their report, published online January 30 in *Pediatrics*. Now they have new results from a randomized multicenter trial to support their position.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/757936>

Zinc Decreases Mortality in Children With Pneumonia

In a study conducted in Africa, children aged 6 to 59 months who had severe pneumonia had reduced mortality when receiving zinc in addition to standard antibiotics, a new study has found. In addition, the reduction in mortality was greater among HIV-infected than non-HIV-infected children. Maheswari G. Srinivasan and colleagues reported the findings in an article published online February 8 in *BMC Medicine*.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/758308>

Antiseptic Reduces Umbilical Cord Infection and Neonatal Mortality

The use of a topical antiseptic to clean the umbilical cords of newborns and infants significantly reduces neonatal mortality, according to findings from 2 large studies conducted in Pakistan and Bangladesh and published online February 8 in the *Lancet*. The results confirm earlier research into the efficacy of an approach to care that promises to get at a major cause of neonatal death.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/758262>

Older Parents More Likely to Have an Autistic Child

Children born to a parent over age 35 are at greater risk for developing an autism spectrum disorder -- and the risk is the same whether just one or both parents are older, according to a new study of Danish families.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/758151>

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