

SELECTED ABSTRACTS

PEDIATRIC INJURIES IN THE BACK OF PICKUP TRUCKS

Travel in the back of pickup trucks has not been adequately addressed as an occupant protection issue. This study compares injuries sustained by children riding in the back of pickup trucks with those of children riding in the cab. Data were obtained from a multihospital monitoring system and the coroner in a single urban country. The series of injured children consisted of 290 children 0 through 14 years of age, 201 of whom had been riding in the cab and 89 in the back. Age distribution of the children demonstrated that it is most frequently the 10 to 14 years-olds who travel in the back. Children riding in the back were more frequently injured in noncrash events (absence of a collision), had more ejections, had more injuries, and sustained more severe injuries as measured by the Maximum Injury Score. With increased restraint use in the cab, it is likely that even greater differentials in injury severity and patterns would be realized. Education regarding the hazards of travel in the back of pickups and stronger legislation limiting the transport of children in the back of trucks are recommended.

— *Agran PF et al, JAMA Pakistan October, 1990 Vol.2, No.8*

RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE IN SCHOOL CHILDREN FROM AL-MEDINA AL-MOUNAWARRAH DISTRICT, SAUDI ARABIA

The prevalence of rheumatic heart disease was assessed among school children aged 6 to 15 years. A sample size of 9,418 (10% of target population) underwent cardiac evaluation. The prevalence of rheumatic heart disease was found to be 2.4 per 1,000 children. It was more prevalent in rural areas, in females, and in the low socio-economic class.

— *Mohammad Abdul Aziz Al-Sekaitt et al. Annals of Saudi Medicine,
Volume 10, Number 6, 1990*

INFANT FEEDING PRACTICES AND IMPACT OF THE METHOD OF FEEDING ON GROWTH AND MORBIDITY DURING FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF LIFE

Feeding histories were collected on 81 infants born to middle income families in a private hospital in University Town, Peshawar. For the comparison of growth and morbidity between breast-fed and bottle-fed babies, 67 of the above mentioned infants were followed from birth to 4 months of age. Fifty eight per cent of the infants were breast-fed and 42% infants were bottle-fed (mixed fed: 27% and bottle fed exclusively: 15%).

A large percentage of mothers (62.5%) initiated breast-feeding within first 6 hours postpartum. Eighty nine percent of mothers fed colostrum (first milk) to their babies; 53% of the mothers considered colostrum useful while 11% considered it harmful. Bottle feeding was introduced to 89% of the infants during first month of life; 64% of the bottle-fed infants received infant formula while 36% received animal milk. Forty five per cent of the infants were introduced weaning foods by the age of four months. Popular weaning

foods were cerelac, banana, farex, egg yolk and biscuits. Use of pacifier was common in both breast-fed and bottle-fed infants.

Irrespective of feeding methods, the mean weights and mean head circumferences of boys were greater than girls at birth, 2 and 4 months of age ($P < 0.05$). From birth to 4 months of age, mean weight and mean weight gains of breast-fed boys and girls were not significantly different from those of partially breast-fed and bottle-fed boys and girls. Similarly mean head circumferences and mean increase in head circumference of breast-fed boys and girls were not significantly different from those of partial breast-fed and bottle-fed boys and girls.

The morbidity data revealed that during the first four months of life breast-fed group had significantly less number of infants with diarrhoea and respiratory tract infections as compared to bottle-fed group infants ($P < 0.05$).

— Humayun MA et al. *PJMR Vol: 29, No: 2, 1990*

ROLE OF MILK PROGESTERONE PROFILE IN FERTILITY MANAGEMENT OF MAMMALS

Milk progesterone profiles of Nili-Ravi Buffalo were studied during oestrus, early pregnancy and at various durations of pregnancy. An increase in the milk progesterone level was seen in the first few days of pregnancy. However, instead of declining from about day 17 or so high progesterone concentrations were maintained. Progesterone level during oestrus cycle showed an increase after evolution due to the developing corpus luteum size. An optimum increase was observed till 17th day, which later dropped rapidly to basal level. The length of the oestrus cycle was 21 days. Use of milk progesterone profiles in oestrus detection (milk progesterone < 2 ng/ml) helped to achieve a conception rate of 67%. In pregnancy diagnosis, milk profiles provided 80% accurate positive and 100% accurate negative results.

— Mir Hassan Khan et al. *PJMR Vol: 28, No. 2, 1989*

PERFORATED DUODENAL ULCER – A LONG TERM FOLLOW-UP

Retrospective analysis of 115 cases of perforated duodenal ulcer was done to determine the long term prognosis of patients managed by suture plication. Male to female ratio was 7.8:1. Males were younger than females with a median age of 35 and 50 years respectively. Highest frequency was noted in the 4th decade. Thirty-eight per cent cases were smokers and 8.7% were pan/tobacco chewers. Blood group O was predominant (36.5%). Ninety-five per cent perforations were in the anterior wall of the Cap and 5% prepyloric. Of the 48 (42%) cases followed, 28 (58%) relapsed during a 15 year follow-up. The cumulative relapse rate increased with the increase of follow-up period. Patients who relapsed had a longer duration of symptoms prior to perforation ($P < 0.05$) than those who did not relapse (*JPMA* 40: 258, 1990).

— Waquaruddin Ahmed et al. *JPMA Vol: 40, No. 11, November, 1990*