

**Victorian Forensic Paediatric Medical Services
VFPMS Journal Club**

Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health

Selected articles from 2007

ORIGINAL ARTICLES:

- Penelope Cruickshanks and Cathrine Skellern [Role of the tertiary child protection paediatrician: expert and advocate](#) 43 Jan/Feb p 34-39
- Dean Biron and Doug Shelton [Functional time limit and onset of symptoms in infant abusive head trauma](#) 43 Jan/Feb p 60-65
- Dania Nathanson and Dimitra Tzioumi [Health needs of Australian children living in out-of-home care](#) 43 Oct p 695-699
- Editorial Comment and original article:
- Sharon Goldfield and Nicky Kilpatrick [Oral health: An important determinant of the health of children](#) 43 March p 99-100
- Lisa Jamieson, Eleanor Parker and Jason Armfield [Indigenous child oral health at a regional and state level](#) 43 March p 117-121
- Review articles:
- Shanti Raman, Susan Woolfenden, Katrina Williams and Karen Zwi [Human rights and child health](#) 43 Sep p 581-586
- James Tibballs [Legal basis for ethical withholding and withdrawing life-sustaining medical treatment from infants and children](#) 43 April p 230-236

INSTRUCTIVE CASES:

- Amanda Davey, Sarah-Jane Foxton, Pronab Bala, Michael Richards and Ann Cuthbert [Bruising: When it is spontaneous and not idiopathic thrombocytopenia purpura](#) 43 April p 310-311
- Paul Robinson, Julie Curtin and Peter van Asperen [Blue Blood](#) 43 March p 184-185

ANNOTATION:

- Peter Davies [Growth charts for use in Australia](#) 43 Jan/Feb p 4-5

ROLE OF TERTIARY CHILD PROTECTION PAEDIATRICIAN

Child Advocacy Service, RCH, Brisbane

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- Anonymous self report survey to child protection paediatricians working in tertiary hospitals in NZ and Australia
- Adequacy of training and confidence within diverse roles in child protection work
- Perceptions of stress and satisfaction

- 72% (32/45) responses received

- Majority (71.8%) entered directly into tCP unit in first consultant post
- 65.7% had <4months pre FRCP training
- 1/3 had no training

- Training inadequate but current confidence levels high
- Most concerns: role as forensic expert

Curriculum being developed

Elevate to sub-specialty

FUNCTIONAL TIME LIMIT AND ONSET OF SXS IN INFANT ABUSIVE HEAD TRAUMA

Police and Community Child Health, Gold Coast, Qld

- Retrospective study, cases over 10yr period
- Analyse medical and witness evidence→isolate cases where a functional time limit could be established→examine these cases for onset of neurological symptoms

- Functional time limit established in 16/52 (31%) cases
- 11/16 :evidence of immediate neurological response

HEALTH NEEDS OF AUSTRALIAN CHILD LIVING IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

CPU, Sydney Children's Hospital

- Comprehensive multidisciplinary health screens offered
- To children<12 yrs, priority to <5 yrs age
- High rates of physical, developmental and emotional health problems identified
- Greater than average child population in NSW
- Similar to children in care overseas
- Questionnaires: biological parents and case worker
- Current carer to attend appointment
- Paediatrician and social worker/psychologist
- Growth, physical exam, vision, formal audiology, dental check and development screen (Australian Developmental Screening Test)
- Takes 3-4 hours/child-gathering information, writing reports, referral letters and making appointments

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ORAL HEALTH

Dr Sharon Goldfield/Dr Nicky Fitzpatrick-CCCH and Dentistry, RCH
Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health and School of Dentistry, Uni of
Adelaide, SA

- Editorial and original article (indigenous children in SA)
- Oral health→
 - predictive of future dental problems
 - Impact on general growth and cognitive development (interferes with sleep, appetite, eating patterns, school behaviour and negative self esteem)
- Rural worse than cities: no fluoridation of water/lack of dental services
- Dental caries is infectious disease caused by Strep mutans: metabolize sugars
→aids→demineralization and cavitations
- Reversible in “white spot lesion”stage (white spot around gingival margins)

HUMAN RIGHTS AND CHILD HEALTH

Community paediatrics, Liverpool and Sydney Children’s

- Children are vulnerable
- Children’s rights require special attention
- In Australia: seeking asylum
 - ATSI
 - Disabilities
 - In care
 - In poverty
- Human rights approach provides additional framework for advocacy etc

LEGAL BASIS FOR ETHICAL WITHHOLDING AND WITHDRAWING LIFE-SUSTAINING MEDICAL TREATMENT FROM INFANTS AND CHILDREN

Jim Tibballs, ICU , RCH

- Discusses above topic using legal cases examples
- Best Interests of patients
- Evaluation of
 - “quality of life”
 - “futility”
 - “ comparisons of burdens vs benefits”
- with or without treatment.

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BRUISING: SPONTANEOUS AND NOT ITP

Dept of Paediatrics and Haematology, West Yorkshire and Leeds, UK

Report of 22 month old boy p/w bruising
No FHx of bleeding disorder

Clinical impression: ITP, but normal FBE

Elevated PT and APTT
Factor assay: low VIII, IX, XI, XII and prothrombin

Consistent with acquired prothrombin deficiency with presence of non-specific factor inhibitors.

Found positive lupus anticoagulant and anti-cardiolipin antibody (which were transient)
Thought to be secondary to viral infection

BLUE BLOOD

Westmead, NSW

Baby born: persisting low oxygen saturations over months

Multiple investigations at 10 weeks age:

Monitoring of Sats and tcut CO₂

CXR

FBE

Echo

VQ scan

Hb electrophoresis-baby and mother (mother's abnormal)

Later mother and 2 siblings also had low oxygen sats → all had abnormal Hb band

Sequencing of maternal globin gene:

heterozygosity for the alpha globin chain mutation Hb Titusville (previously described)

First found in African-American girl during a population survey

GROWTH CHARTS

New charts based on published CDC 2000 growth data

Includes a 1st centile for height (b/c of growth hormone provision)

Most recent data has not been included in the calculation of these charts b/c increasing obesity is skewing charts in an undesirable way.