

An audit of overweight and obese children admitted for surgery: Implications for paracetamol overdose

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Abstract

Introduction:

Childhood obesity has been established as one of the most detrimental public health concerns with its prevalence increasing at an alarming rate. Addressing the risks overweight individuals face prior to surgery must be taken into consideration, such as the possibility of being administered the incorrect dosage of paracetamol medication, leading to a susceptibility to analgesic-induced toxicity the aims of this audit include:

- 1) To identify the prevalence of overweight and obese children admitted for elective surgery at our institution
- 2) The incidence of intravenous paracetamol administered according to actual body weight in overweight children.

Results include that the average paracetamol dose over prescribed was 130 mg.

Conclusion: The audit revealed that despite the high prevalence childhood obesity children 2-16 years old, less than a 3rd of the overweight and obese children were identified. Auditing children presented to the paediatric surgical department has identified the prevalence of childhood obesity. Secondly, it has been understood that there is a misconception into how to dose overweight children with paracetamol as well as there being a lack of understanding into the susceptibility of overweight children are to being overdosed.



Biography:

Ria Marwaha has completed 4 years at medical school. Currently is enrolled in a yearlong medical intercalation in “Urgent and Emergency Care” based at the UCLh A&E department in London.

Speaker Publications:

1. “Operationalizing a One Health approach to reduce the infection and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) burden in under-5-year-old urban slum dwellers: The Childhood Infections and Pollution (CHIP) Consortium”; May 2020 One Health 10:100144.
2. “Case report: contradictory genetics and imaging in focal congenital hyperinsulinism reinforces the need for pancreatic biopsy.

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