

Comment

Dear Readers,

we have the pleasure to introduce a next issue of our journal, this time concentrating on paediatric issues. The papers were written “on demand” of paediatricians working at general paediatric departments. Thus, the studies concern a broad spectrum of topics, from a variety of areas within paediatrics: nephrology, cardiology, pulmonology, sleep disorders in children, infection disease, social paediatrics.

The reasons and disorders which are the cause of admitting children to paediatric departments are of various types; hence the knowledge and experience of doctors working there must be extensive. The vast majority of children complete their diagnostics and treatment at paediatric wards, while certain children must be directed to high-specialised wards. This, however, does not mean that the paediatricians need not learn about the final diagnosis and broaden their knowledge in the given field.

Dear Reader, in this issue you will find eight original studies and three case report

The article “Determinants of Heart and Arterial System Damage in Children with Chronic Kidney Disease” (M. Okarska-Napierała et al.) you will find that in children with chronic kidney disease, NT-proBNP is a useful marker of left ventricular hypertrophy, arterial stiffness and central blood pressure. In children with chronic kidney disease calcium-phosphate disturbances seem to be key determinants of left ventricle mass and arterial stiffness. Calcium carbonate dose may influence arterial stiffness and carotid intima-media thickness.

The studies in cardiology describe “Current therapeutic options in children with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy” (L. Ziółkowska et al.). In most children with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy lifestyle modification and appropriate pharmacological therapy are sufficient, additional medical interventions are not necessary. In patients with symptomatic left ventricular outflow tract obstruction refractory to medical therapy a surgical myectomy should be considered. High-risk patients ought to be prospectively identified and ICD implantation should be considered.

Another discusses “Perception of anti-vaccination movements by parents of young children” (K. Jaroszewska et al.). The activities of anti vaccination movements are recognized by parents but they do not influence on their decisions regarding vaccinations. As the main source of knowledge regarding vaccinations is internet, it should be strongly recommended to create professional websites dedicated to vaccinations addressed to parents and patients. Medical professionals should be more involved in the promotion of vaccinations.

The authors “Analysis of invasive infections caused by capsular strains in the years 2000-2013” (T. Jackowska et al.), based on our observations shown that invasive infections caused by capsular bacteria occur at any age. Vaccinations to prevent the onset of a disease induced by the *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Neisseria meningitidis* and *Haemophilus influenzae* may be highly effective in both children and adults. 67.4-83.3% of the pneumococcal serotypes and 100% of the meningococcal ones identified in the reported cases are present in the available vaccines. No case was caused by the *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, against which children have been commonly vaccinated for a number of years.

The paper “Parents’ knowledge of fever and management procedures in the case of its occurrence in children under 12 years of age” (T. Jackowska et al.), based on surveys shows that Parents’ knowledge related to managing fever symptoms in children is insufficient and frequently differs from the AAP recommendations. The phenomenon of „fever phobia” remains widespread among parents and the vast majority believe that fever is harmful. Some of the parents’ behaviors that were identified expose children to the risk of antipyretic drug overdose or misuse.

Extremely interesting is the 9-year analysis acute poisoning as a cause of hospitalization of children and adolescents. Poisonings are still a serious problem in children and pose a threat to their health and life. The most frequent cause of poisoning regardless of age are medications, with a dominant role of *acetaminophen* (paracetamol), neurological medications and dextromethorphan (acodin). In adolescents (aged 13-18) significant causes of poisoning also include ethanol and narcotics – “Acute poisoning as a cause of hospitalization of children and adolescents in the pediatric ward” (T. Jackowska et al.).

Sodium concentration measurement should be a routine procedure in patients hospitalized due to CAP and the occurrence of HN may suggest a risk of a more severe course of the disease – so the authors consider “The usefulness of sodium concentrations in the evaluation of indications for hospitalization in children with pneumonia” (A. Wrotek et al.).

In the journal are also other articles. Therefore, I highly recommend the publications prepared by us in for the present issue and welcome you to read them and use the knowledge in practice successfully, which is always the greatest achievement for a doctor.

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