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Case Report

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[Celiac disease presenting as transient intussusception in two 3-year-olds](#)

Although intussusception occurs in children and adults with celiac disease, it is a relatively uncommon symptom. Even more rare is the occurrence of intussusception as the presenting symptom of the disease. In the two cases we report here, transient intussusception, occurring at three years of age, was the first and only physical sign of celiac disease, and lead to a timely diagnosis by immunoserology and histology, followed by implementation of a gluten-free diet before sequelae such as significant anemia or Failure to Thrive (FTT) developed. In both cases, neither immunoserological nor physical signs of disease were present at the follow-up examination after 6 months on a gluten-free diet. In addition, genetic screening of the patients' families revealed HLA-DQ2 positivity in two cases, leading to the additional diagnosis of celiac disease in the pregnant mother of one of the patients.

Retrospective Study

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[Child protection services during COVID-19 in Oman, child protection workers views](#)

Introduction: Child Protection Services (CPSs) are dedicated to providing protection and responding to any threats a child could face as children worldwide could be abused. Recently, the COVID-19 pandemic affected all aspects of life. Procedures implemented to restrict the spread of the disease (such as reduced access to services, school closure, and social distancing measures) had an impact on child life and maltreatment. Therefore, it is important to know the impact of this pandemic on child abuse and protection.

Aim and rationales: This study aimed to assess the impact of COVID-19 on CPSs in Oman by studying the change in the number of reported cases of child abuse and the change in the reporting procedure at the Ministry of Social Development (MOSD). In addition, know the impact of the restriction measures on child rights and risk factors of child maltreatment based on CPSs workers' opinions and experience. To understand the adaptation of the CPSs to the change in work and life environment imposed by COVID-19.

Method: A cross-section study was conducted using a semi-structured questionnaire, that was distributed to the workers involved in the CPSs at the MOSD in Oman. Data also were collected from the statistical bulletins on the Ministry's website.

Results: COVID-19 pandemic was not found associated with a significant change in the number and type of child abuse cases reported to the MOSD. The reporting procedures also did not change. In addition, the pattern of child abuse types did not change before and during the pandemic, as neglect cases were the most. The participants judged the restriction measures affecting family life through separation, cyber abuse, and reduced educational support. With regard to intervention and follow-up procedures, the main difference was in the communication processes by using online communication methods and reducing the fieldwork for mild cases.

Conclusion: CPSs in Oman were not much affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which may reflect the success of this system in dealing with the restriction measures. However, more solutions should be developed to adapt to these circumstances in the future altogether.

Research Article

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[Quality of life in Ghanaian children and adolescents with type 1 diabetes mellitus compared with non diabetic controls and caregivers' report](#)

Background: Measurement of health-related quality of life (HRQOL) in children and adolescents with type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM) is as important as metabolic control in the management and prevention of diabetes-related complications.

Aim: To describe the self-reported HRQOL outcomes in Ghanaian children and adolescents with T1DM compared with healthy controls and perceived HRQOL by caregivers.

Setting: Out-patient clinics of the Departments of Child Health, Medicine and Therapeutics, Family Medicine, and Ophthalmology, the National Diabetes Management and Research Centre (all at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital), and the Cape Coast Teaching Hospital (CCTH).

Methods: Socio-demographic and clinical characteristics of study participants were documented. Participants completed the PedsQL™ 4.0 Generic Core Scales. Data analysis was done with SPSS Version 25.0. An unpaired t-test was used in comparing the HRQOL scores between children and adolescents with T1DM and controls, and parental proxy reports.

Results: Fifty children and adolescents with T1DM, 50 parents/caregivers, and 80 healthy non-diabetic controls took part in this study. There was no significant difference in mean score between the patients and the caregivers for overall HRQOL ($p = 0.270$). Patients reported significantly worse overall HRQOL than their controls ($p = 0.001$).

Males with diabetes reported better HRQOL than females ($p = 0.007$).

Conclusion: Children and adolescents with T1DM and their parents/caregivers reported lower HRQOL scores compared to healthy controls. Males reported better HRQOL than females.

Potential implications: HRQOL should be routinely assessed together with proxy reports from parents to identify those who might benefit from further attention including referral to a psychologist.

Case Report

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[Hereditary spherocytosis: review of cases and discussion of hematologic characteristics and updated diagnostic testing](#)

Hereditary spherocytosis is a common inherited type of hemolytic anemia that results from abnormal morphology of erythrocytes. It has a high occurrence in North Americans and northern Europeans with a prevalence of 1/2000.

There is a wide range in age and symptoms at presentation with some individuals being asymptomatic and others having severe diseases requiring blood transfusions. Based on the severity of symptoms, management may vary from simple observation to frequent blood transfusions, cholecystectomy for gallstones, and splenectomy. Timely diagnosis may be critical to minimize complications. Diagnostic tests have been available with varying degrees of accuracy. However new diagnostic tests with greater specificity and sensitivity are now available for more accurate diagnosis of Hereditary Spherocytosis in individuals of all ages including newborns. Illustrative cases are presented that show the variability in presentation, symptoms, complications, and care. Information is presented updating diagnostic testing that allows earlier diagnosis of children with hereditary spherocytosis. Additionally, the hematologic findings suspicious and consistent for this diagnosis are presented, serving as a guide when testing should be initiated.

Review Article

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[Health management using probiotics](#)

‘Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food’, the age-old quote by Hippocrates is evidently proved in today’s life management as probiotics have become a valuable part of human day-to-day life [1].
