

 **More gaming leads to more impulsivity, attention difficulties in children** (*Psy Pop Media Culture* 2012;1:62-70)

This study, done in Singapore, studied the behavior, attention, impulsiveness of the children over three years period by various psychological tests with specific recording of video game playing habits history. The result is an eye opener. Impulsive children with attention problems tend to play more video games, while children in general who spend lots of time video gaming may also develop impulsivity and attention difficulties. Although the findings indicated that playing violent video games also can be linked to impulsivity and attention problems, the overall amount of time spent playing any type of video game proved to be an important factor. This was the case regardless of a child's gender, race or socioeconomic status. Understanding some of the environmental influences that video gaming may have on attention and impulsivity can help develop more effective solutions for children and parents.


 **Administer systemic corticosteroids early to reduce hospital admission rates in moderate and severe asthma exacerbation**(*10.1016/j.annemergmed.2011.12.027*)

This study, conducted in 2008 and published very recently throws light on this important clinical situation. The effect of early versus delayed (>75 minutes) administration of systemic corticosteroids on health outcomes of children admitted with either moderate or severe asthma exacerbation was analyzed (severity was defined as a Pediatric Respiratory Assessment Measure (PRAM) score of 5 to 12) in this prospective study and outcomes were measured in terms of hospital admission, relapse, and length of active treatment. In children with moderate or severe asthma, administration of systemic corticosteroids within 75 minutes of triage decreased hospital admission rate and length of active treatment. This study stresses the need of early administration of systemic corticosteroids in such cases which may allow for optimal effectiveness of the treatment.


 **Prediction of primary vs secondary hypertension in children** (*JCH, doi: 10.1111/j.1751-76.2012.00603.x*)

This retrospective study included children 5 to 19 years with primary and secondary hypertension as variability exists in the workup of hypertensive children due to physician preferences despite current guidelines. The study evaluated primary vs secondary hypertension diagnosis from investigations routinely performed in hypertensive children. The proportions of abnormal

laboratory and imaging tests were compared between primary and secondary hypertension groups and risk factors for primary vs secondary hypertension were evaluated by logistic regression and likelihood function analysis. It was found that patients with secondary hypertension were younger (5–12 years) and had a higher proportion of abnormal creatinine, renal ultrasound, and echocardiogram findings. There was no significant difference in abnormal results of thyroid function, urine catecholamines, plasma renin, and aldosterone. We can easily identify children aged 5 to 12 years at higher risk for secondary hypertension that requires detailed evaluation with abnormal renal ultrasound findings and high diastolic blood pressures.

 **Premedication: 0.2mg/kg or 0.3mg/kg midazolam intranasal spray**(*J Anesth DOI: 10.1007/s00540-012-1341-6*)

The role of intranasal midazolam as premedication to induce sedation is already established but which dose to select is not well defined. This study, done at Mumbai, compared two dosage regime of intranasal Midazolam and found that Intranasal Midazolam in the dosage of 0.3mg/kg is safe and achieves faster sedation and better separation scores as compared to 0.2mg/kg dosage regime.

 **Children's academic success linked to how parents play with toddlers**(*Pediatrics, doi: 10.1542/peds.2011-1402d*)

The ways in which parents engage with their children at age two predicts their children's future academic outcomes, according to results from this 15 year study done in USA. There has been extensive research done on the importance of early parent-child interactions on future educational experiences, but most have focused on the relationship with the mother. This study looked at the combined long-term impacts of both maternal and paternal interactions in those critical stages of early development, and discovered that children not only benefit from the interactions they have with their mothers, but also their fathers.

According to the researchers, parent-child activities demonstrated to have a positive impact on children's future academic outcomes. It is important for parents to engage with their children during the vital, early stages of brain development, because that early exposure to cognitive stimulation with both mothers and fathers can have a long-lasting and positive influence on the educational success of their children.

Amit P Shah
drnehamit@gmail.com