

access was obtained and IOI was discontinued.

IOI is an important procedure used as an alternate pediatric life support. Usually long bones like tibia and femur are chosen. Sites selected are upper end of tibia, medial surface of the distal end of tibia proximal to the medial malleolus and distal end of the femur in the middle. Through intraosseous route, fluids, drugs, blood and blood products and also vasopressors(2) can be infused. Bone marrow aspiration fluid can also be used for investigations like bacterial culture, blood grouping and cross matching and hematocrit(2). The sternum should not be used as site of puncture for this procedure. In conditions with local infection, osteogenesis imperfecta, osteoporosis, osteopetrosis, fractures and vascular injuries, IOI should be avoided. Precautions for doing this procedure include appropriate care to prevent damage to the epiphyseal plate with proper size of

the needle according to the age and weight of the neonate; avoidance of hypertonic solution to prevent disseminated intravascular coagulation. IOI should be stopped as soon as venous access is achieved.

IOI is an important alternative life saving procedure in places where pediatric surgical assistance is not possible.

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2. Brownstein DR, Rivera FP. Emergency medical services for children. *In: Nelson Text Book of Pediatrics*, 15th edn. Eds. Behrman RE, Kliegman RM, Arvin AM Philadelphia W.B. Saunders company, 1996; pp 237-238.

Baby Friendly Hospital

The Editorial entitled "Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative: The Kerala Experience" has come at an appropriate time(1). The suggestions made in the editorial are very practical, there is no reason for any disagreement.

I would like to make one further suggestion. Every Baby Friendly Hospital should have a creche, so that, young babies of the female staff can be kept there and given breastfeeds during the duty hours of the mother. A hospital should be designated as 'Baby Friendly Hospital' only if it is

Baby Friendly for the babies of the staff members also. Creche can be made economically viable for small institutions by admitting other children also. Location of the creche should be such that the children are not exposed to nosocomial infections.

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