

Letters to the Editor

Care of Adolescents

We read with interest the recent "viewpoint" on this subject(1). Adolescence (10-20 years of age) is a very crucial period of life in which a child leaps into adulthood. Adolescents suffer from a number and variety of health problems that represent an amalgam of the changing biologic and psychologic aspects of their development. Adolescence is also the time when health behaviors are developed, the effect of which will be to enhance or impair adult health status. Physical and emotional health care needs of adolescents are unique, and a physician who is familiar with developmental issues (*i.e.*, Pediatricians) can better fulfill the requirements. Is it fair that Pediatricians provide care during early adolescence and leave middle and late adolescence for 'adult physicians'? We believe that Pediatricians can better address to the problems of adolescents.

Unfortunately, adolescent medicine has not been given the significance it deserves, both in medical colleges and in the practice of pediatrics. IAP requires to do some

additional efforts to develop this important subject. It should frame and provide guidelines for adolescent health care in Indian context. We all can now begin to see children up to at least 18 years of age. Pediatricians working in Government hospitals may find it easier to direct all children up to 18 years of age with medical problems to Pediatric OPD as 'adult physicians' are less likely to resist this move to reduce their load of patients. In private sector, it is the commitment and preparedness of Pediatricians which can attract adolescents. We hope that IAP would take up this issue and shall lobby adequately for better health care of adolescents, of course by Pediatricians.

Harish Kumar Pemde,
Pediatrician,
B.J.R.M. Hospital,
Jahangirpuri, Delhi,

Kamlesh Harish,
Pediatrician,
E.S.I. Hospital, Okhla Phase-I,
New Delhi.

REFERENCE

1. Mehta R. Care of adolescents. *Indian Pediatr* 1996, 33: 790.

NOTES AND NEWS

REVISED SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR IAP JOURNAL OF PRACTICAL PEDIATRICS

Life membership Rs. 1000/-; Annual Rs. 120/-; Institution: (i) For one year Rs. 250/-; (ii) For 10 years Rs. 2000/-; Foreign: (i) Annual US \$ 50; (ii) Life US \$ 500. For further details please contact the Editor-in-Chief, Dr. B.R. Nammalwar, No. 2, Main Road, Seetha Nagar, Madras 600 034.