
Book Reviews

Global Polio Eradication-Progress and Challenges. Eds. Thacker N, Shendrnrikar N. Gandhidham (Kutch), Naveen Thacker, Deep Children Hospital, Pages 31, Price not mentioned.

This booklet represents a timely effort to update the current status of Global Polio Eradication in general and the Indian scene in particular. The monograph has updated the polio eradication strategies and global program made in this direction in very simple language which is brief, yet informative at the same time.

The success of immunization program, strengthened by the unprecedented social mobilization and international coordination experienced during Pulse Polio Immunization programme, has encouraged us to think of polio eradication sooner than we visualized initially. Acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) surveillance is a sensitive surveillance system to detect, report and investigate cases of paralytic poliomyelitis. Authors have rightly devoted a major section of the monograph to AFP surveillance since this data is required to certify eradication. Details of components, types and standard performance indicators for AFP surveillance have been given in simple and crisp manner. The flow diagram on 'sequence of actions' taken by the Government once a case of AFP is reported' has been nicely

depicted.

Authors have clearly visualized the need for updating certain technical issues before we can achieve 'zero polio' status. AFP care classification has been written very well and the diagram to support clinical and virological classification schemes are self explanatory. Recommendations for improving AFP surveillance are valuable for those involved in the process.

Some references **have** also been provided at the end of the monograph which adds to its scientific quality. However, some of the references are not correctly/completely written and could have been taken care of. Annexes provides a set of beautiful color pictures of important statistics.

This monograph will not only enlighten the medical fraternity on various issues related to polio and its eradication but will also serve as a reference guide for reporting cases of AFP, an activity without which we can not dream of eradicating polio. The authors deserve all the praise for focussing on a topical issue at the right time.

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The Good Growing Health Record: A Must for Every Parent. *Editor. Nandini Mundkur. Bangalore Children's Hospital and Research Center, Bangalore, 1997; Pages 70, Price not mentioned.*

This is an interesting book and is meant to create awareness among the parents and the doctors about development of the child, from the intra-uterine period of the first five years of life, and explains how parents can assess the growth and development of the child by following simple procedures and guidelines, and take remedial action at the earliest if any deviation is detected. Most parents consult a pediatrician regularly regarding immunization, growth and in case of illness, but in a busy practice, some of them may not do the simple development assessment suggested in the book. However, if parents are observant, they can point a deviation to the attending pediatrician and these can be picked up at the earliest. In this way parents are themselves involved in the development of their child. However, I wonder how many pediatricians will take the time to fill up the columns. Many of them have developed their own growth and development-calender.

A few points need to be commented upon in an otherwise excellent and much needed publication. In the record of pregnancy, the weight of the fetus is given in ounces and later on in grams. This can cause confusion.

During antenatal period, hemoglobin

should be checked at the first visit, and if necessary, the woman treated and not wait, till after 20 weeks. The pregnant woman's diet schedule should be simple and conform to the family dietary pattern. There is no particular merit in advising 200-300 ml milk during first half of pregnancy and 400 ml during the second half.

Page 5- "Child not healthy" does not explain anything. Even a thin but very energetic and active child may seem unhealthy to the mother because of his being thin. The nature of delivery is not mentioned-whether it was spontaneous or induced, whether normal, forceps, caesarean, *etc.* This may have a bearing on the child's development.

Ability to feed from a cup or spoon depends on whether the mother has used these for feeding the baby. Hearing defect can be identified much earlier by using simple devices and one need not have to wait till the child is 3 years old. Even a five year old needs help in cleaning up after passing a stool. While care of the teeth is important, there seems to be an undue emphasis on this facet. There are useful tests for vision, hearing and development at the end of the book.

On the whole this is a useful book for parents and doctors and I am sure the future editions will benefit from the feedback from the users.

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