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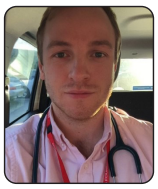
Abstract



How do doctors calculate medication doses in childhood obesity? A retrosepctive evaluation of prescriptions in paediatric patients in Casey Hosptial, Melbourne

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Abstract:

Introduction - Pharmaceutical errors are a leading cause of unwanted side effects in paediatrics. With rising levels of childhood obesity worldwide, larger drug doses are being prescribed based on total body weight. To minimise harm, the Ideal Body Weight (IBW) is one suggested method for weight based calculations of certain medications in children, but not routinely used. We investigated the number of overweight children receiving medication doses based on IBW, and those on total body weight (TBW) in a paediatric ward in Melbourne, Australia.

Method - We performed a retrospective audit of children admitted as an inpatient over 1 month (January–February 2019) and calculated those classified as overweight (>90th centile for weight on CDC growth charts). We used Scanned Medical Records to locate the data for each patient, and subsequently determined their weight, medications given, and if the calculated doses were based on IBW or TBW.

Biography:

Dr Charles Sparrow studied medicine at the University of Southampton, United Kingdom, before completing his foundation training in Leighton Hospital, Mid Cheshire NHS Trust. He has been working in Australia since 2016, and is currently working in Paediatrics in Melbourne.

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