



Abstract PS-060 Figure 1

low IL-13 were produced by CBMC in L-arginine free condition. About the Th3 cytokines, CBMC produced lower TGF- $\beta$  but higher IL-10 than PBMC. L-arginine levels had no influence on the TGF- $\beta$  production (PBMC and CBMC). L-arginine enhanced the IL-10 production of CBMC. CBMC showed higher proportion of CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>+</sup> cells and higher Foxp-3 expressions with L-arginine rich condition.

**Conclusions** These results suggested that L-arginine modulate neonatal T-cells polarisation may partially through the IL-10 producing Tr1 cells mechanism. Understanding the biological role played by L-arginine deficiency in neonate will lead to the development of dietary strategy aimed at enhancing L-arginine plasma concentrations.

**PS-061 MATERNAL FATTY ACID COMPOSITION DURING EARLY PREGNANCY AND ASTHMA AT AGE 7 YEARS IN THE AMSTERDAM BORN CHILDREN AND THEIR DEVELOPMENT (ABCD) COHORT**

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**Background and aims** Fetal exposure to polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) might influence the risk of childhood asthma. Epidemiologic studies suggest decreased risks of asthma after high intake of omega-3 and many women take omega-3 supplements during pregnancy. Few studies have maternal PUFA blood levels.

We examined the relationship between maternal PUFA blood levels during early pregnancy and asthma in the offspring at age 7 years in a population based prospective cohort.

**Methods** In 2,105 women, we determined maternal PUFA levels in plasma phospholipids drawn at about week 13 of pregnancy. Child asthma at age 7 (n = 154 cases) was based on parental report of physician diagnosis. We categorised PUFA levels and omega-3 to omega-6 ratios in quartiles with the lowest quartile as the reference category in multivariate logistic regression. Risk ratios were adjusted for: gestational age at blood draw; maternal education; western ethnicity; maternal age; parental asthma; and prepregnancy body mass index.

**Results** Higher omega-3 levels were related to lower asthma risk with a trend across the quartiles (risk ratio for the top quartile = 0.73, 95% CI (0.45–1.17, P trend across quartiles = 0.04) and higher omega-6 levels showed opposite associations but also not statistically significant and with no significant trend. Higher ratios of omega-3 to omega-6 were associated with slightly lower risks of asthma with a trend across quartiles (risk ratio for top quartile = 0.80, 95% CI 0.50–1.27, P trend across quartiles = 0.04).

**Conclusions** We found some suggestion of a reduced risk of childhood asthma at age 7 with higher maternal plasma levels of omega-3 and a higher ratio of omega-3 to omega-6 PUFAs.

PS-062 **WITHDRAWN**

PS-063 **VARIABILITY IN BREAST MILK COMPOSITION BASED ON MOTHER AND NEONATE CONDITIONS: A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY**

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**Background** Recent studies on the field of evolutive biology have shown that the individual variability in breast milk (BM) composition may reflect mother or neonate characteristics. These results are focused on Trivers and Willard's evolutive theory (1973): natural choice may favour the inversion of the breast-feeding pattern.

**Objective** To prove that BM composition may be altered on the basis of neonate sex, mother age or number of children.

**Study Design/methods** Descriptive study of BM composition donated in a hospital breast milk bank from April 2013 to January 2014. Different variables were registered: Nutritional, mother (age) and neonate variables (sex and order of birth).

**Results** 280 BM donation sets performed with 79 mothers were analysed. From the overall of women, 46,8% were mothers who had daughters and 53,2% had sons. It was their first child in 37 mothers. It could not be observed the correlation between mother age and nutritional values. In respect to the order of birth, it has been shown that the amount of fatty acids is much higher in first borns than in each child born subsequently (p0,027). Nevertheless, it has been shown that BM obtained from mothers who had daughters has a much higher protein (p0,009), lactose content (p0,055) and caloric value (p0,05) than the one obtained from sons.

**Conclusions** BM composition is affected by sex and order of birth. The fatty acids concentration diminishes with the birth of each subsequent child. Therefore this research has shown nutritional differences in BM composition, favouring daughters.

## General Paediatric Surgery

PS-064 **DIAGNOSTIC VALUES OF ALVARADO SCORING SYSTEM, ULTRASOUND AND C-REACTIVE PROTEIN IN PAEDIATRIC ACUTE APPENDICITIS**

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**Background and aim** Ultrasound (US) and Alvarado scoring system (ASS) are very helpful in making the diagnosis of Acute appendicitis (AAp). Therefore important evaluate the usefulness of ASS, US and C-reactive protein (CRP) in AAp diagnostics for children (7–18 years).

**Methods** 46 patients with clinically suspected AAp were enrolled in the prospective study (January 2010–December 2013). Each patient underwent abdominal US and was evaluated for the ASS criteria and for CRP. The ASS is based on three symptoms, three signs, and two laboratory findings. Sensitivity and specificity of the diagnostic tests were assessed. The study was approved by the Institutional Ethics Review Board.

**Results** 58.7% of our patients were boys, 41.3% - girls, the mean age was 12.91 years (SD 3.2). 47.8% had AAp and underwent appendectomy. The positive predictive value (PPV) for US was 95.5% and the negative predictive value (NPV) - 75%. The sensitivity for diagnosing AAp by US - 77.82%, the specificity - 94.7%. Anorexia and leukocytosis were significantly related to AAp ( $p < 0.01$ ). The sensitivity was 41.0%, specificity 71.4%, PPV 94.1%, NPV 20.7% for the ASS with a cutoff point of 7. Of patients with AAp and with ASS score  $\geq 7$ , two had a normal CRP, 12 patients with ASS scores  $< 7$  had CRP  $\geq 5$  mg/L. The sensitivity was 75.0%, specificity 83.3%, PPV 75.0%, NPV 33.3%.

**Conclusions** ASS should be used in clinical practice for the patient's benefit. US provides reliable findings for helping to diagnose AAp if ASS score  $\geq 7$  and CRP value is normal.

PS-065 **ULTRASONOGRAPHY AND PAEDIATRIC APPENDICITIS: A STORY OF GREAT EXPECTATIONS AND THE PHANTOM APPENDIX!**

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**Background and aims** Appendicitis is the most common surgical emergency in children yet the diagnostic workup of children varies greatly among major centres internationally. Once heralded as a revolution in diagnosis, the results of its clinical application have been conflicting. Intra-operator variability has a significant effect on appendix visualisation, with some centres quoting visualisation rates as high as 80% and as others as low as 30%. We had anecdotally observed that many ultrasounds ordered at our centre were not visualising the appendix and wanted to determine our visualisation rate and how it affects the utility of ultrasound in clinical practice.

**Methods** 10 year retrospective review of all children, presenting to the Canberra Hospital with right sided or periumbilical abdominal pain between 2002 and 2012, where ultrasonography was utilised in the confirmation or refutation of appendicitis as a diagnosis.

**Results** 737 ultrasound scans were reviewed. Rates of ultrasonography doubled over the period but appendix visualisation rate dropped from 42% to 25%. Sensitivity is 96% when the appendix was visualised for all tests but only 71% when a negative result included non-visualised test. The incidence of appendicitis was 21% in the total cohort, and 6% in the non-visualisation group.

**Conclusion** Ultrasonography is a theoretically appealing tool for paediatric appendicitis, *if and only if*, the appendix is visualised. If the incidence of appendicitis in the non-visualised group approaches that of the general population, a non-visualised test provides no reassurance whatsoever, and appendicitis remains a diagnostic phantom for the clinician.