

extremely obese should enquire about mental health, parenting, development and psychosocial factors, and make appropriate referrals. Childhood obesity often indicates family distress and unmet need including important child mental health difficulties.

G495

# INNOVATIVE TREATMENTS FOR CHILDREN: A SINGLE CENTRE REVIEW OF CLINICAL ETHICS COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS

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10.1136/archdischild-2015-308599.448

**Aims** Lord Saatchi's proposed Medical Innovation Bill (MIB) has received widespread media and public interest. The Bill aims to encourage doctors to try novel treatments for those reaching the limit of standard therapy, promising protection from sanctions e.g. prosecution.

Innovative therapies (IT) are a relatively common undertaking in the rare and occasionally unique diseases encountered in children's hospitals, children are not discussed in the proposed Bill.

Brierley and Larcher proposed an ethical framework to review IT in children and we describe cases reviewed by our Clinical Ethics Committee (CEC) since introducing this approach.

**Methods** Tertiary paediatric hospital CEC transcripts regarding IT proposals 2011–14 reviewed.

**Discussion** In four years the CEC reviewed 13 IT cases, 6 were urgent and reviewed by rapid response committee. Proposals were presented by 11 different paediatric specialities - 9 single patient specific, 4 relevant to multiple patients.

The CEC consisted of at least one medical, one lay member and a member with a higher degree in medical ethics. A legal adviser attended 7 meetings and a member of the hospital spiritual team 8. Minimum of 5 CEC members at review (range 5–13). Families attended all single patient reviews.

In all cases in line with the framework medical teams justified the scientific basis for treatment (1) and provided second opinions of external specialists in the field (2). The clear informed consent to the specific proposal by the child and/or those with parental responsibility (3) were obtained, including full knowledge of alternative possibilities e.g. palliative care.(4) The entire local, and where relevant external referring, teams agreed this treatment was an appropriate course.(5) Wider issues such as burdens of treatment for the child and family as a whole (6) together with funding implications for treatment (7) and other resources e.g. PICU were also discussed. An explicit guarantee to disseminate the result of IT whatever the outcome from the team was made.

**Conclusion** Our CEC offers medical teams the opportunity to have innovative therapies reviewed by a multidisciplinary group using a published framework. Innovation is already happening and we are not persuaded the MIB is necessary, or protection from prosecution sensible.

G496

# CARING FOR BODY AND SOUL – NAVIGATING RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS BY MUSLIM PARENTS

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10.1136/archdischild-2015-308599.449

**Aim** We present a 6 day old boy who suffered femoral arterial thrombosis. Parents are Muslim and disagree with the use of Heparin, as it contains pork-derived gelatine. We explore medico-religious conflict between Muslim parents and health-care professionals and how to navigate them.

**Methods** Male, born 38+2 weeks, NVD, 4.63 kg. Antenatal scans and serology were normal, despite maternal gestational DM (Insulin controlled). He was diagnosed with pulmonary hypertension and HOCM requiring mechanical ventilation for 5 days. Umbilical artery catheterisation inserted on D1, removed on D6 leading to femoral artery thrombosis.

Whilst awaiting emergency transfer to a surgical centre, Heparin was required but parents objected on religious grounds.

**Results** In the absence of suitable alternatives, we explored parent's ideas, concerns and expectations. Explaining the gravity of the situation, they still objected. Measures such as contra-lateral limb warming, volume expansion and GTN patches were insufficient. Seeking court approval to override the objection was under exploration and if the condition deteriorated Heparin was to be used without parental consent based on 'best interest'. Parents agreed to Heparin before this occurred. Surgery was averted and the clot resolved with Heparin infusion alone.

**Conclusion** Muslims come from many theological and legal backgrounds. Some view that unlawful material for consumption is unlawful for use in medicine, such as pork-derived gelatine. Many medicines contain such gelatine, e.g. Heparin, HepSaline flushes and Duoderm. When conflicts arise, the following can help as per the Hanafi legal school;

- Explore parents concerns, explain the situation sensitively. Involve chaplains and Muslim scholars.
- Consider an alternative if available, e.g. Mepitel for Duoderm.
- If no alternative is available or sufficiently effective then one can **use the product, as long as it is needed**, known to be effective (based on at least high likelihood) and that this has been established by a qualified doctor who appreciates the ethical framework of Islamic law.
- Provide information as many Muslims lack knowledge of the facility present in Islamic law, e.g. a religious edict (fatwa) such as that written by Al-Azhar University for use of Duoderm or articles from reliable Islamic authorities; seekers-guidance.org.

It is important for clergy and professionals to learn about Islamic medico-legal ethics.

G497(P)

# HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS VACCINATION COVERAGE RATES IN 'LOOKED AFTER' YOUNG WOMEN – ANOTHER MARKER OF HEALTH DISADVANTAGE?

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10.1136/archdischild-2015-308599.450

**Aims** Vaccination of young women against human papilloma virus (HPV) has important health benefits, not least in reducing lifetime cervical cancer risk. Young women who are 'looked after' are a vulnerable group, known to face disadvantage in several areas, including in relation to their health. Are we able to achieve HPV coverage rates in this group comparable to the general population in order to safeguard their future health? We set out to study this in our own Health Board area.