

100 Chronic HCV patients (63% males) with mean age of 13 ± 2.8 years in addition to 100 healthy matched controls. Diagnosis of patients relied upon persistently positive HCV PCR for at least 6 months. Eighty two patients received combined pegylated interferon $\alpha 2b$ $60 \text{ mcg/m}^2/\text{w}$ and ribavirin 15 mg/kg/d . Treatment was continued for 48 weeks for responders (49 patients). All subjects were exposed to history, examination, liver functions, viral markers, HCV PCR and abdominal ultrasound. Liver biopsy was done only for patients. Gene polymorphisms were assessed by restriction fragment length polymorphism. **Results** Neither patients nor controls had TLR2 Arg753Gln or TLR4 Asp299Gly polymorphisms. Only 3 patients (3%) were heterozygous for TLR4 Thr399Ile polymorphism without significant difference between patients and controls ($p = 0.24$). No significant correlation was observed between TLR4 Thr399Ile polymorphism and viral load, histologic activity, grade of fibrosis or treatment response ($p = 0.96, 0.21, 0.46, 0.49$ respectively). **Conclusion** TLR2 Arg753Gln, TLR4 Asp294Gly and TLR4 Thr399Ile polymorphisms seem to be absent or rare and probably have no role in HCV among Egyptian population.

0-225 LINC RNAs ARE PREFERENTIALLY LOCATED NEAR TRANSCRIPTION FACTORS AND REGULATE EARLY ENDODERM AND LUNG DEVELOPMENT

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Although long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs) have been demonstrated to regulate fundamental biologic processes, such as cell proliferation and maintenance of the pluripotent state, their patterns of expression and role during mammalian development remains poorly defined. Using RNA-Seq with a conservative pipeline, we have identified 363 lncRNAs in the lung and

foregut endoderm. These lncRNAs were 3-fold more likely to be located within 20 kb of a known transcription factor compared to protein-coding genes. Three lncRNAs were selected for in-depth analysis: two lncRNAs adjacent to the critical transcription factors Foxa2 (LncFoxa2) and Nkx2.1 (Nkx2.1-Associated Non-Coding RNA, Nanci), and a novel lncRNA (LL34) with markedly increased expression in embryonic lung. *In situ* hybridization revealed distinct patterns of expression in the lung for each of these transcripts, with nearly identical patterns of expression between Foxa2 and Nkx2.1 with their neighbouring lncRNAs. Lentiviral shRNA-mediated knockdown of LL34 revealed alterations in the expression of genes involved in early patterning of the foregut and lung, including genes involved in retinoic acid (RA) synthesis, and downstream targets of RA signalling including Foxa1, Gata6, Bmp2, Fgfr2, Fgfr3, and Tgfb3. Most recently, CRISPR-Cas9 technology has been used to generate stable hepatocyte knockout lines of LncFoxa2, which demonstrate that LncFoxa2 may function to regulate endoderm development by both regulation of its neighbouring transcription factor, and also through mechanisms independent of Foxa2. Taken together, these data suggest that lncRNAs play critical roles in the patterning, growth, and differentiation of the foregut and lung.

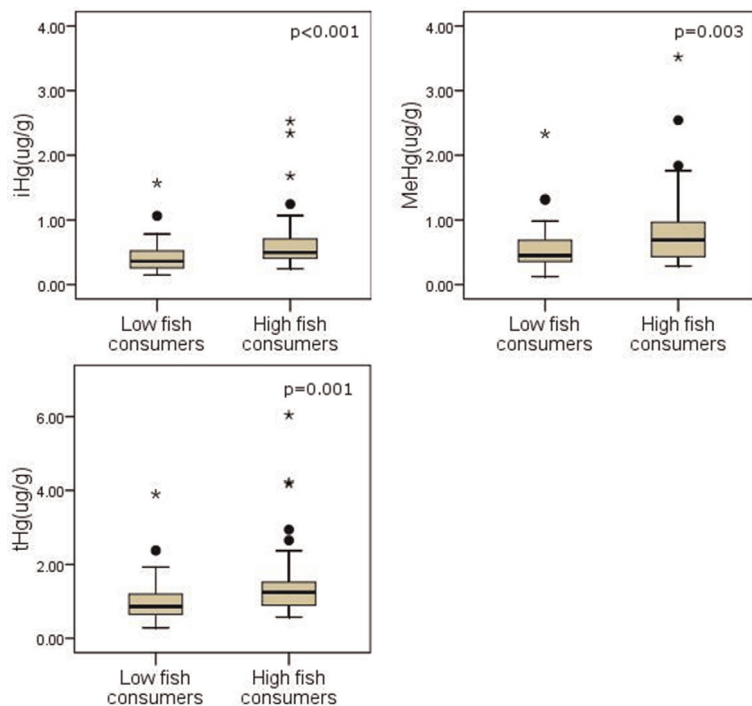
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Adolescent Health

PS-001 FISH CONSUMPTION PATTERN AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH HAIR MERCURY LEVELS IN HONG KONG PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

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Abstract PS-001 Figure 1 Box plot graphs for low and high fish consumers of their hair iHg, MeHg and tHg MeHg, tHg levels

Background Low-dose mercury exposure has been shown to be associated with adverse childhood health outcomes. Fish is the major source of mercury exposure in children. Our aim was to investigate the associations between estimated fish intake with total mercury (tHg), inorganic mercury (iHg), and methylmercury (MeHg).

Methods Based on fish food frequency questionnaire (FFQ) data, subjects above the top and below the bottom quartiles of monthly fish intake frequency were contacted for recruitment. Subject hair tHg, iHg, MeHg levels were determined, and fish intake assessed by fish FFQ and 14-day food diary (FD). Associations between fish intake and hair mercury were analysed.

Results 96 children were recruited and 38 of them completed the FD. Among these 96 children and those who have FD data, 55% and 50% were high fish consumers, respectively. The mean ratio of iHg: MeHg was 1:1.4. Comparisons between hair mercury levels and fish intake levels of high and low fish consumers are shown in Figure 1. Fish intakes calculated from both FFQs and FD were positively correlated with tHg, iHg and MeHg (all $p < 0.05$). However, in general, better correlations were found between FD data and hair mercury (Spearman's rho for tHg = 0.416; iHg = 0.352; MeHg = 0.448) than between FFQ and hair mercury (Spearman's rho for tHg = 0.308; iHg = 0.360; MeHg = 0.262).

Conclusions Fish intake data obtained from both FFQs and FDs were positively associated with hair mercury levels. FDs performed better than FFQs. The high proportion of iHg: MeHg is unexpected and warrants further study.

PS-002 EFFECTS OF E-WASTE EXPOSURE ON THE SYNTHESIS OF HAEMOGLOBIN IN PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

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Objective Guiyu is the major electronic-waste (e-waste) recycling town in China. This study was to measure the effect of e-waste exposure on the synthesis of haemoglobin (Hb) in preschool children.

Methods 222 children lived at Guiyu town and 204 children lived in a no e-waste polluted town were chosen to test their blood lead, Hb, ferritin, folate, vitamin B₁₂ levels and hemoglobinopathy, then fill the self-questionnaires by their parents.

Results There were no significant differences in the levels of ferritin, folate, vitamin B₁₂ between exposure and control groups, and all children had been excluded thalassemia. The blood lead levels (BLLs) and rate of BLLs ≥ 10 ug/dL in exposure group were significantly higher than that in control group (all $p < 0.01$). Three groups were divided according to BLLs (Group A: < 5.0 ug/dL, Group B: 5.0–9.9 ug/dL, Group C: ≥ 10.0 ug/dL). It can be seen that the levels of Hb were decreased along with elevated BLLs significantly in exposure group ($F = 3.52$, $p = 0.03$), however, not shown in control group ($F = 1.98$, $p = 0.14$). Furthermore, the prevalence rate of anaemia along with BLLs ≥ 10 ug/dL in exposure group was significant higher than that in control group (4.0% vs. 0.5%, $p < 0.05$), and the prevalence rate of anaemia without BLLs ≥ 10 ug/dL and iron deficiency in exposure group was significant higher than that in control group (6.5% vs. 2.0%, $p < 0.05$).

Conclusion Different from the general environment, the lead exposure in e-waste area might aggravate the inhibition of synthesis of Hb, and other potential e-waste toxicants might also have a responsibility for it.

PS-003 ACCEPTABILITY AND INITIAL EFFICACY OF SIMPLE, WRITTEN, EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR ADOLESCENT MOTHERS IN THE UNITED STATES

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Background Health literacy has been associated with a variety of health outcomes and behaviours in adults and children. Relatively little is known about health literacy of pregnant and parenting teens. The current study evaluated the acceptability and efficacy of simple, written, educational materials.

Methods A convenience sample ($n = 129$) of English-speaking adolescent mothers ($M = 16.98$ years; $SD = 1.04$) was recruited from a public school system. A simple pamphlet was developed for each of 4 common topics (breastfeeding, postpartum depression, infant care, and bonding). Participants completed a pretest on knowledge, read a simple educational pamphlet, and completed an immediate posttest. Participants also completed the Parental Health Literacy Activities Test (PHLAT) and a measure of acceptability. A two-week posttest followed. The Cochran-Armitage test of trends and repeated measures ANOVA were used.

Results The teens agreed ($n = 96$; 82.1%) or partially agreed ($n = 14$; 12%) that the pamphlets were easy to read. Knowledge improved on 6 of the 10 questions. Correct responses to the PHLAT items ranged from 27.6%–97.6% ($M = 61.79\% \pm 16.7\%$). The intervention was associated with an increase in PPD (67.4% vs. 76.4% vs. 84.3%, $p = 0.031$), baby bonding (74.8% vs. 87.8% vs. 86.2%, $p = 0.013$) and breastfeeding (58.5% vs. 75.6% vs. 79.7%, $p = 0.005$) knowledge over time, but had no effect on infant care knowledge over time (94.3% vs. 97.6% vs. 95.9%, $p = 0.434$).

Conclusions/discussion Simple, written pamphlets, following US national health literacy guidelines, improved knowledge over time and were acceptable to adolescent mothers. Health literacy skills were limited and appear to be associated with initial knowledge.

PS-004 ASSOCIATION OF THE 45T > G ADIPONECTIN GENE POLYMORPHISM WITH METABOLIC SYNDROME IN EGYPTIAN FEMALE ADOLESCENTS

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Background Adiponectin gene (ADIPOQ) single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) have been shown to influence adiponectin levels and have been associated with risk for obesity and insulin resistance (IR). However, these associations have not been fully examined in Egyptian adolescents. The aim of this study was to