

**Hong Kong Journal of Paediatrics**

香港兒科醫學雜誌 (New Series)

An Official Publication of  
Hong Kong College of Paediatricians &  
Hong Kong Paediatric Society  
c/o Hong Kong College of Paediatricians, Room 801,  
Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Jockey Club  
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Hong Kong Journal of Paediatrics is  
published by Medcom Limited, Room 808,  
Two Chinachem Exchange Square, 338  
King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong.  
Tel: (852) 2578 3833, Fax: (852) 2578 3929,  
Email: mcl@medcom.com.hk

The Journal is indexed in  
EMBASE/Excerpta Medica

Website: www.hkjpae.org

ISSN 1013-9923

## Health Issues Particularly Relevant to Children of Chinese Origin

Chinese children look different from other ethnic children; their medical and health problems are often different too.<sup>1</sup> Some of these problems are highlighted in a series of articles in the current issue of the Journal, they are particularly relevant or unique to children of Chinese origin. Using chopsticks in eating is a classical example illustrating a unique cultural difference with the Western world. Li-Tsang and her colleagues<sup>2</sup> reported a nice study validating the chopstick-manipulation test for screening Chinese children with fine motor dysfunction. Apparently this is a useful test that would have little application in the Western culture. The short case report by Yip and Chan<sup>3</sup> is not only unusual for being a case occurring in a boy, it also serves as a reminder for the readers that systemic lupus erythromatosis is more prevalent in children of Chinese decent.<sup>1,4</sup>

Mak and colleagues<sup>5</sup> documented that thyroid dysfunction is common in Chinese children with Down syndrome, a finding similar to the West as reported in the English literature.<sup>6</sup> Many adverse effects on health by indirect cigarette smoke<sup>7</sup> have been reported in the English literature, Tang<sup>8</sup> was probably among the first to document this in the Chinese children. Spontaneous pneumothorax in children is uncommon,<sup>9</sup> except in cystic fibrosis, which is rare in Chinese. A nation-wide survey over a 10-year period in U.S.A. identified only 64 per 1,000,000 children under 18.<sup>10</sup> It is intriguing to note that Hui and colleagues were able to collect 63 such child-cases<sup>11</sup> between 10 and 18 years old in only one single community hospital. Whether such condition is more prevalent in Chinese deserves careful scrutiny and search for an explanation. Other papers in this issue are all work of significant local interests.

We welcome scientific and clinical contributions on any child health related topics to our journal. We are keen to receive original work that would highlight certain genetic or cultural characteristics in Chinese children. After all, our journal considers publishing scientific and clinical papers on health issues particularly relevant to children of Chinese origin one of our important mission.

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