

## ANTENATAL CARE PRACTICE AMONG THE UNDERPRIVILEGED WOMEN OF SELECTED URBAN SLUMS OF DHAKA CITY

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### ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** It was a cross-sectional study carried out among the women of two urban slums who had delivered child within the preceding twelve months with the objectives to determine their antenatal care (ANC) practice and to identify their socio demographic family status. **Methods:** The total sample size was 107. Most of the respondents (44%) belonged to the age group between 25-29 years. The mean ( $\pm$ SD) age was 25.44 ( $\pm$  14.65) years. Majority (68%) of them were illiterate. Almost 80% of the respondents were maid servants and about 30% of their husband were unemployed. The mean monthly income was Tk 2275. Majority of the respondents (81%) had 1-3 children, mean family size was 1.73. **Results:** About 69% of the study population visited a facility for pregnancy related care. Among them 78.38% of the mothers took ANC service from non-government organisation (NGO) clinic. There was a significant relation between antenatal care and educational level of the mothers ( $\chi^2 = 7.26$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ). A highly significant association was observed between husband's employment and taking ANC by the respondents ( $\chi^2 = 19.97$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ). About 42% of the respondents said that they did not know about the necessity of ANC. **Conclusions:** The outcome of the study may guide the policy makers, programme managers and researchers towards identifying areas for intervention and further research about ANC practice.

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## HEPATITIS C VIRUS ANTIBODY STATUS IN DIABETES MELLITUS: A PRELIMINARY STUDY

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### ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** An association and epidemiological link between hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection and diabetes mellitus (DM) has been reported in recent studies. The objective of this prospective preliminary study was to investigate the prevalence of HCV-antibody (HCV-ab) in DM-patients (DMPs) at Dhaka, Bangladesh; **Patients & Methods:** A total of 40 DMPs (age range: 14-75 years, sex: 26 males, 14 females) together with 30 normal control subjects (NCs) (age range: 30-60 years, sex: 18 males, 12 females) were included in this preliminary study. The patients were obtained from the OPD at BIRDEM, Dhaka and they were all established cases having DM for 1-15 years duration. After obtaining verbal consent, patients were evaluated clinically, proformas were filled and aliquots of blood were taken. The exposure to HCV infection was determined by HCV-ab measurement in serum with commercially available enzyme immunoassay (EIA) kits. The results were evaluated by Chi-squared ( $\chi^2$ ) test with Yate's correction; **Results:** Out of 40 DMPs, 3 (7.5%) were positive, while all the sera from NCs were negative for HCV-ab ( $P < 0.05$ ); **Discussion:** The probable implications of HCV infection in DM were discussed.

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## AWARENESS ABOUT ARSENIC POISONING AND ITS PREVENTION AND CONTROL AMONG RURAL WOMEN

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### ABSTRACT

This cross sectional descriptive study was carried out in a village under Chandpur zilla of Bangladesh from January to March 2002. A total of 360 women, one from each household, age ranging from 20 to 60 years were selected for the study to assess the knowledge of rural women about source of arsenic contamination and its prevention, effects of arsenic toxicity on human health and its treatment and control. Households were selected by systematic random sampling. Necessary information from the selected women were collected in a pre-tested structured questionnaire by face-to-face interview. Majority (70%) of the respondents were between 20 to 40 years age group and most of them (63.9%) were literate. In 97.2% subjects, tube well was the source of drinking water and 36.7% subjects had no knowledge about arsenic contamination of water. Those having knowledge about arsenic contamination of water, majority (62.3%) of them were informed by health workers. Most of the respondents did not have any idea about prevention (85.9%) of arsenic toxicity and control (89.5%) of arsenic poisoning.

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## LIPID PROFILE IN LIBYAN PATIENTS WITH DIABETES MELLITUS

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### ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** This prospective study aimed to determine the lipid profile in Libyan patients with diabetes mellitus (DM-pts) and to assess the correlation of the lipid profile with diabetes mellitus; **Methods:** Fasting samples of 58 DM-pts (age range: 21-62 years; Sex: 33 males, 25 females) and 24 healthy subjects (NCs) (age range: 19-58 years; Sex: 13 males, 11 females) obtained during January to June 2005 were tested for lipid profile, i.e. total cholesterol (TC), triglyceride (TG), high density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) and low density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) by using diagnostic kits, except LDL-C which has been calculated. The patients were subjected to a questionnaire concerned with their medical history. The results were analyzed by MS Excel computer programme package; **Results:** Serum levels of TC, TG and LDL-C were significantly increased, while serum levels of HDL-C was significantly decreased in Libyan diabetics as compared to controls (DM-pts vs NCs -> TC (mg/dl):  $215.8 \pm 55.0$  vs  $157.0 \pm 34.4$ ,  $P=0.000$ ; TG (mg/dl):  $218.8 \pm 99.2$  vs  $113.0 \pm 30.4$ ,  $P=0.000$ ; LDL-C (mg/dl):  $132.3 \pm 45.7$  vs  $85.7 \pm 30.4$ ,  $P=0.000$ ; HDL-C (mg/dl):  $41.2 \pm 13.6$  vs  $48.7 \pm 30.4$ ,  $P=0.026$ ). Correlation studies illustrated a positive correlation between hyperglycemia and hypercholesterolemia, hypercholesterolemia and hypertriglyceridemia and the elevated TC correlated positively with LDL-C in DM-pts as well as in all the subgroups of the patients ( $P<0.05$ ); **Conclusions:** The study showed that in Libyan DM-pts there was dislipidemia which correlated with hyperglycemia.

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## SELECTED FACTORS RELATED WITH PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPING CONDITION AMONG THE CHILDREN OF URBAN AREAS

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** To determine few selected characteristics of the handicapped children and to identify the possible factors related with the handicapping condition; **Materials and Methods:** This cross sectional study was conducted among 103 physically handicapped children. Data were collected by a structured pre-tested questionnaire partly and by check list from the available records. There was purposive selection of the sample size; **Year and place of study:** The study was conducted under the Department of Community Medicine, National Institute of preventive and social Medicine (NIPSOM), Mohakhali, Dhaka during April to May, 1994; **Results:** The study revealed that majority of the children (47.6%) were crippled due to polio, cerebral palsy, heart disease, road accidents, burn and other injuries, 27.2% was blind and 25.2% was deaf and dumb. Majority (57.42%) of the children were between the age group of 5-9 years. Male predominated over female children of that age group. Around 53% deformities and disabilities appeared at birth, 46.6% were due to acquired factors. Majority of the study group were from rural areas. The mean ( $\pm$  SD) age of the mothers was 23.21 ( $\pm$  5.72) years. A significant association was seen between asphyxia at birth and development of a cerebral type of handicapped conditions ( $P < 0.05$ ). Of the total cases, 58.25% were delivered by the untrained birth attendants. Significant association was seen between the place of delivery and handicapping conditions ( $P < 0.05$ ). Nearly 19.4% of the children had the history of consanguineous marriage of their parents. Chi-square test showed a significant association between premature delivery and handicapping conditions of the children ( $P < 0.05$ ); **Conclusion:** It is presumed that some of the factors of disabilities were preventable. Marriage counseling, genetic counseling, early diagnosis, proper treatment, health education and positive public attitude will play significant role in preventing and controlling the handicapping conditions.

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## DENGUE AND DENGUE HAEMORRHAGIC FEVER: AN UPDATE OF CLINICAL GUIDELINE

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### ABSTRACT

Dengue infection is caused by four virus serotypes DEN 1,2,3,4 of a flaviviridae. Its global incidence has dramatically increased in the past few years, and it's epidemic is occurring in endemic countries. In Southeast Asia, the number of annual incidence has increased in late 90's. Infection with dengue virus serotypes can produce a spectrum of illnesses and may be classified into five major manifestations as asymptomatic, undifferentiated fever, dengue fever (DF), dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) and dengue shock syndrome (DSS). DF or DHF presents initially with high fever, joint or bone pain, retro-orbital pain, leucopenia, thrombocytopenia and other clinical symptoms and signs. Fever lasts typically for 2-5 days and then the patient becomes afebrile which is the most critical stage when platelet decreases and capillary leakage ensues and may lead to fatal outcome. Although there are overlapping of symptoms and signs, clinical case definitions can clearly differentiate the diagnosis and with the aid of laboratory findings, cases of dengue infections can be confirmed. There is no specific treatment of DF or DHF but appropriate clinical management with judicious fluid therapy can reduce the morbidity and mortality. With appropriate treatment, death rate is less than 1%, whereas it may be as high as more than 20% in DHF, even more than 40% if with DSS. Prevention of dengue infection totally depends on prevention of mosquito bites and control and eradication of mosquito especially *Aedes aegypti*, the main vector for transmission of disease.

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## **DOUBLE-STRANDED DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID (dsDNA): THE BLUE PRINT OF LIFE**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Science matters and affects our everyday lives in thousands of different ways. The scientific advances of today will shape how our lives change in the future. Science is not only important, but so fascinating and there is no more fascinating story than the discovery of the structure of dsDNA by Francis Crick and James Watson about 52 years ago in 1953. Based on this greatest scientific discovery of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, many more fundamental discoveries have been made subsequently. Some of these discoveries that have revolutionised the biological sciences and having tremendous applications in medicine are briefly reviewed in this article.

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## **CASE REPORT**

# **OLFACTORY NEUROBLASTOMA : A CASE REPORT**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Olfactory Neuroblastoma is a rare condition. We report here a 40-year-old male who presented with a history of nasal mass, nasal obstruction and occasional bleeding from nose for one year and six months. The patient underwent extensive surgery and histopathology confirmed the diagnosis as olfactory neuroblastoma.

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## **CASE REPORT**

# **MEDICOLEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES IN A CASE OF VITRIOLAGE**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This is a case report of a victim of 21 years old female who received chemical injuries by corrosive substance due to attack by her neighbour who proposed to marry her and was refused. Medicolegal examination was performed by the authors at casualty department at Dhaka medical college hospital to confirm the mode and manner of injuries of the victim. Medicolegal and social issues needed to be considered in a case of vitriolage are discussed

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**RECENT RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE GUIDELINE  
ON THE MANAGEMENT OF HYPERTENSION**

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**ABSTRACT**

In the editorial update in 2005 (J Med Coll Women Hosp 2005; 3(2): 59-64), we reviewed and highlighted the recommendations for the management of hypertension contained in the publication of the Seventh Joint National Committee Report (JNC-VII) published in 2003. Recently, based on the original guideline of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published in August 2004, the NICE in conjunction with the British Hypertension Society (BHS) have launched the keenly awaited updated clinical guideline on the management of hypertension in 2006. The abstract of the updated recommendations for the guideline-18 included in the report is briefly stated here.

**[J Med Coll Women Hosp 2006; 4(2): 111-12]**