

Paediatrics E-Poster

EP_P001

COMPARING BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS AMONG OBESE AND NON-OBESE CHILDREN IN HOSPITAL RAJA PEREMPUAN ZAINAB II, KOTA BHARU

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INTRODUCTION

Childhood obesity is an increasing public health concern, both globally and in Malaysia. Beyond physical health risks, it has been associated with behavioural and psychological issues such as anxiety, depression, aggression, and low self-esteem. However, this association remains underexplored in the Malaysian context. This study aims to compare behavioural problems between obese and non-obese children at Hospital Raja Perempuan Zainab II, Kota Bharu, and assess their competency characteristics.

METHODOLOGY

A comparative cross-sectional study was conducted from September to December 2024 at the general paediatric clinic and ward of Hospital Raja Perempuan Zainab II, Kota Bharu. Participants were children aged 6–12 years, categorized as obese (BMI $\geq 95^{\text{th}}$ percentile) or non-obese (BMI $< 95^{\text{th}}$ percentile) using CDC BMI-for-age percentiles. Behavioural problems were assessed using the validated Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL/6–18), which measures internalizing, externalizing, and total behavioural problems. T-scores classified behavioural concerns as normal, borderline, or clinical range.

RESULT

A total of 85 participants (44 obese, 41 non-obese) completed the study. We found significant associations between BMI status and hobby participation ($p = 0.016$), number of friends ($p = 0.001$), and school performance ($p = 0.010$). However, we did not find any statistically significant differences in behavioural domains, including internalizing ($p = 0.781$), externalizing ($p = 0.131$), social ($p = 0.344$), thought ($p = 0.108$), attention ($p = 0.341$), and total problems ($p = 0.085$).

CONCLUSION

We did not find any significant behavioural differences between groups. However, with a study power of 52%, the results may reflect a limited sample size rather than an absence of association. We recommend larger-scale studies with refined methodologies.

EP_P002

METABOLIC BONE DISEASE OF PREMATURITY – SURVEY OF CURRENT NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE APPROACHES

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INTRODUCTION

Metabolic bone disease of prematurity (MBDP) requires both calcium and phosphate for prevention and treatment. However, clinicians often focus on phosphate and vitamin D supplementation, neglecting calcium deficiency in nutrition. This study evaluates MBDP management in the neonatal care unit in a quaternary hospital in Malaysia.

METHODOLOGY

We conducted a retrospective review of MBDP cases referred to paediatric endocrinologists at University Malaya Medical Centre from 2019 to 2025. We extracted data from electronic medical records and monitoring charts, and we obtained input from pharmacists and dietitians regarding mineral supplementation in enteral and parenteral nutrition.

RESULT

The study involved 22 subjects, primarily infants with extremely low birth weight (ELBW), with a median birth weight of 705 grams (interquartile range: 600–833 grams). All infants were born before 32 weeks of gestation, and most were born before 28 weeks. The mean age at referral was 66.3 ± 33.43 days. Upon referral, all subjects exhibited low phosphate and high alkaline phosphatase levels. Only 15 subjects had their parathyroid hormone (PTH) levels checked, and PTH testing was conducted more frequently after referrals to endocrinology. Fifteen subjects showed radiological evidence of MBDP, and six of them had fractures. Routine screening revealed hypophosphatemia, hyperphosphatasia, and normocalcemia at least one month prior to referral. Most subjects were presumed to be treated with oral phosphate and vitamin D supplements; however,