



Childhood snoring: an ideal area for public-private collaboration

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Habitual snoring occurs in around 10% of Hong Kong primary school children and witnessed apnoea was observed in 1.5% of the same group of children.¹ Both are important symptoms of obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome (OSAS). Sleep polysomnography is currently the only investigation that could exclude OSAS in children with snoring. It is important to note that the standards for paediatric sleep polysomnography differ significantly from that of adults, in terms of longer time of preparation because of co-operation problem, smaller nostrils, smaller chest, hypoventilation without apnoea, etc. Ms. MY Cheung, a registered polysomnography technologist and Dr. PY Chow, provides some basic information about the technical requirements for paediatric sleep polysomnography in the current issue. In view of the role of sleep PSG plays in diagnosing OSAS in children, it is not surprising that sleep laboratories in the public hospitals have long waiting time. Dr. KW Chau provides some information on the characteristics of suspected OSAS children in the private sector. OSAS is an ideal area for closer co-operation between public and private paediatricians, otorhinolaryngologists, orthodontists, anaesthesiologists. A guideline for management of childhood snoring would provide a helpful tool to facilitate the co-operation. To this end, the sleep focus group of the Society, led by Dr. PY Chow, is currently working on such a guideline for management of

snoring in children. Hopefully, this would help standardise the management here in Hong Kong and help promote the public / private interface in the provision of services.

Respiratory infections form the main bulk of work for paediatricians. Compared with the viruses, *Bordetella pertussis* is indeed a minority that should always be borne in mind even in the absence of whoop. Dr. TH Fung and Dr. SWW Cherk presented a series of hospitalised infants with pertussis to remind us of this in the current issue.

Reference

1. Ng DKK, Kwok KL, Cheung JM, Leung SY, Chow PY, Wong WH, et al. Prevalence of sleep problems in Hong Kong primary school children: a community-based telephone survey. *Chest* 2005;128:1315-23.