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### PAEDIATRIC MORTALITY IN CATANZARO (ITALY) FROM 1985 TO 2008

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**Aims:** Qualitative and quantitative evaluation of all-cause mortality in pediatric age (0-19 years) in Catanzaro from 1985 to 2008.

**Methods:** We evaluated all-cause mortality using the "Cancer Registry of the City of Catanzaro". The data were obtained from the ISTAT death cards provided by the Institute of Forensic Medicine, ASP of Catanzaro. The residents of Catanzaro were 1,148,949M; 1,213,267F. Total deaths were 0- ≥85 yrs of age: 7,314M ;6,606F. The statistic variable used has been Crude Rate (CR) referred to 100,000 inhabitants.

**Results:** In pediatric age, total deaths were:

- 0-19 yrs of age: 151M (CR 31.57); 113F (CR 20.88)
- 1<sup>st</sup> perinatal: 69M (CR 13.48); 56F (CR 9.98)
- 2<sup>th</sup> malformations: 14M (CR 3); 16F (CR 3.31)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> road accidents: 26M (CR 4.93); 4F (CR 0.69)
- 4<sup>rd</sup> nerv. sys. dis.: 10M (CR 1.98); 10F (CR 2.14)
- 5<sup>th</sup> cancer: 12M (CR 2.49); 5F (CR 1.06)

**Conclusion:** In concordance with national data, mortality in pediatric age in Catanzaro has seen a sharp decline over the years, excepted for perinatal diseases: CR 6,79 (1985-89) vs 3,34 (2000-04) vs 3,43 (2005-08). This decrease and stabilization may be explained with the concomitance of new reanimating techniques for children under twenty-fifth week of life and the increase of the transport "in uterus" to the Catanzaro Dep. of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

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### ASSESSMENT OF SPEECH DEVELOPMENT ACCORDING TO PRESCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN'S NUTRITIONAL PROFILE

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**Objective:** To assess speech development correlating it to social and nutritional data.

**Method:** Cross study with 6-month to 6-year old 126 children from the south region of the city of São Paulo. The Denver II Developmental Screening Test was applied to detect speech risk and results were compared to the following variables: age, gender, mother's educational level, child's nutritional status, number and order of children's birth and anemia. The Chi-Square Test or the Fisher Exact Test with 5% significance level was also used to analyze these results.

**Result:** According to the Denver II test results, from the 126 participant children, 18.3% presented risk for speech and 9.5% presented with anemia. There was no statistical difference between age ( $p=0.064$ ), nutritional status ( $p=0.304$ ), mother's educational level ( $p=0.9469$ ) and gender ( $p=0.1291$ ) when comparing risk and non risk children to the studied variables. However, a statistical difference was noted in number of children ( $p=0.023$ ), birth order ( $p=0.022$ ) and anemia ( $p=0.021$ ).

**Conclusion:** The major risk for speech acquisition and development was concentrated in the anemia group, in the oldest sons and in mothers having given birth to less than five children. Similar studies are key to detect possible changes in the speech development and, as a consequence, in the child's learning process and in his/her future social development.

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### OBESITY AND OVERWEIGHT IN A LOW-INCOME SCHOOL POPULATION OF SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

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**Objective:** To examine in a sample of students from a region of low socioeconomic status, the obesity and overweight

**Method:** cross-sectional study of 1761 school children between 6 and 10 years from three schools in Parelheiros. Were assessed by z scores of weight for height, according to World Health Organization. The variables studied were: gender, age, grade and school year. We used the chi-square to relate the obesity and overweight with the variables.

**Results:** Of 1761 children studied 7,6% were obese and overweight according to z score P/E. The analysis of z score P/E revealed that 60,0% were male and 40,0% female. The mean age was 8.9 years. The risk of overweight was higher among boys: 41,2% for the index P/E. There was no statistically significant difference between the schools, gender and school year and school period. Among obesity and overweight, the school year and school period ( $P < 0.0001$ ) were observed statistical significance.

**Conclusion:** Overweight and obesity are a growing problem in the low income population by its food, customs and lack of information. From the analysis in the region, one can consider that the nutritional assessment of school - the anthropometric technique in particular - is an extremely important tool for understanding the dynamics of child nutrition and development.

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### LIPID, ALIMENTARY AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROFILE OF OBESE CHILDREN TREATED AT A UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

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**Introduction:** Obesity prevalence is intensely growing during infancy. Approximately 50% of the six months old obese babies and 80% of the 5 years old children should remain obese. At this age range alimentary and physical activity habits are formed, thus the concern with prevention, diagnosis and treatment of youngsters.

**Method:** 81 obese children aged 5 to 10 years old were evaluated at the Complexo Hospitalar Wladimir Arruda, considering socioeconomic, alimentary and physical activity data. The lipid profile was also assessed, the cutting point being the criteria of the First Directive for Prevention of Atherosclerosis in Children and Teens with total cholesterol  $< 150$  mg/dl, LDL  $< 100$  mg/dl, HDL  $\geq 45$  mg/dl and triglycerides  $< 100$  mg/dl.

**Results:** 55.6% were girls. Age averaged 8,5 years old. Sole children were 50.6% and 75% were normal weight at birth. From those using feeding bottle, 65.5% used sugar and 77.6% completed the meal with flour. The per capita sugar and oil monthly consumption averaged 1.6 kg and 0.8 L. 66.7% used to eat sweets on the street, 60.5% used to have lunch/dinner watching TV and 87.7% used to spend more than 4 hours at TV. 63% did not show any physical activity. Altered cholesterol was noted in 60.5% of children, HDL in 42%, LDL in 40.7% e TG in 38.3%.

**Conclusion:** Alimentary and physical activity habits were found inadequate for most of the children evaluated, which may be directly related to the lipid profile.

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### MONITORING OF MATERNAL BREAST-FEEDING IN THE PERIPHERAL AREA AROUND THE CITY OF SÃO PAULO

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**Objective.** To assess the impact of the maternal breast-feeding incentive program introduced following a diagnostic survey carried out in 1996 in the peripheral area around the city of São Paulo (Brazil).

**Methods:** In 1996, a maternal breast-feeding incentive program was introduced as an Annual Event held to honor mothers who had breast-fed their children or who were still successfully breast-feeding. During this event, educational speeches enhanced the successful experiences as well fostered breast-feeding mothers to share their well succeeded experiences with their community. Following program implementation, surveys were regularly performed about the breast-feeding situation in the area to monitor the impact of actions taken till 2008. The survey used a semi-structured questionnaire applied to mothers with less than 7-months old babies who come to the public health system units to vaccinate their children