were enrolled at the outpatient pediatric clinic of our Institution from January 2008 to December 2009. All subjects had physical examination with measurement of body weight, waist and hip circumference, and blood pressure. Serum levels of glucose, insulin, HDL-cholesterol, tryglicerides and C-reactive protein were assessed. MetS was diagnosed according to modified ATP III criteria.

Results: MetS was demonstrated in 19.3% of cases. 76.9% of them presented BMI >95th percentile, 64.1% HDL-cholesterol < 5th percentile, 76.9% tryglicerides >95th percentile, and 51.3% systolic blood pressure >95th percentile. MetS prevalence was greater, although not statistically significant, in males than in females (24.5% vs 15%, respectively). Waist/Hip ratio and basal glicemia were significantly higher in males ($p=0.02$ and $p=0.05$, respectively). HDL-cholesterol levels were significantly lower in females than in males ($p=0.04$). Children with MetS showed significantly higher insulin levels, but HOMA index values were not significantly greater than in subjects without MetS. Linear regression analysis demonstrated that predisposing factors for MetS were HDL-cholesterol values < 5th percentile ($p=0.001$), tryglicerides values >95th percentile ($p=0.03$) and systolic blood pressure values >95th percentile ($p=0.045$).

Conclusions: Our data confirm that a correct diet, through tryglicerides decrease, and physical activity, through HDL-cholesterol increase, are the basis for the treatment of pediatric obesity.

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NEWBORN BODY COMPOSITION ON DAY TWO OF LIFE MEASURED USING AIR-DISPLACEMENT BODY PLETHYSMOGRAPHY

M.J. Barrett¹, J.O. Hourihane¹, M. Kiely², L. Kenny³, A. Irvine⁴, D.M. Murray¹

¹Paediatrics and Child Health, Univerisity College Cork, ²Food Science and Nutrition, ³Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University College Cork, ⁴Dermatology, Trinity College Dublin, Cork, Ireland

Background and aims: In addition to the immediate neonatal risks, fetal growth restriction has been increasingly recognised as a risk for long term metabolic disease. Most studies have relied on standardised birth weight centiles to categorise fetal growth. We wished to examine the true rate of growth abnormal fetal growth and compare this to the use of indirect methods.

Methods: Infant were recruited antenatally as part of a prospective birth cohort study, the BASELINE study. Body fat and fat free mass were measured on day 2 of life in infants using air displacement body plethysmography . Gender, gestation, birth weight(BW), weight, length, mid arm circumference (MAC), Ponderal Index (PI) were recorded .

Results: To date 200 infants have been recruited, with mean (SD) gestational age of 39.7 (1.2)weeks and mean (SD) BW = 3.520 (0.472) kg. The mean (SD) fat mass was 0.389 kg (0.272), giving a mean (SD) percentage body fat of 11(4)%. In the 22 infants with a body fat mass < 10th centile birth weight was 3.12(2.7-3.88)kg. Only one baby had a BW < 10th centile using standard centiles. MAC correlated with total body mass ($R=0.705$, $p<0.001$) and showed a negative correlation with lean body mass $R=-0.263$, $p<0.001$).

Conclusion: We have provided normal ranges for infant fat mass on day 2 of life. Standard birth centiles do not accurately detect low body fat or fetal growth restriction.

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CORTISOL CONCENTRATIONS IN PREGNANCY AND ARTERIAL ELASTICITY IN CHILDHOOD

P.H. Rondo¹, J.O. Lemos¹, J.M. Souza², J.A. Pereira¹

¹Department of Nutrition, ²Department of Statistics and Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Prenatal overexposure to glucocorticoids may programme a range of tissue-specific effects in the foetus. The objective of this study was to assess the relationship between cortisol concentrations in the last trimester of pregnancy and arterial elasticity in childhood. The study is part of a cohort involving 130 Brazilian pregnant women and their children, ages 5 to 7 years. Maternal cortisol was determined in saliva by an enzyme immunoassay utilizing the mean concentration of 9 samples of saliva (3 in each different day), collected at the same time, early in the morning. The large arterial elasticity index (LAEI) and the small arterial elasticity index (SAEI) were assessed by the HDI/PulseWave CR-2000 Cardiovascular Profiling System®. Socioeconomic and demographic characteristics and life style factors were determined by a questionnaire. The nutritional status of the women and children was assessed by