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Parental involvement in childhood cancer survivor interventions

Lee Edwards/Getty Images

Childhood cancer survivors (CCS) are at risk of becoming overweight or obese due to treatment effects and/or posttreatment behaviors. Parents are key in influencing child diet and physical activity (PA), which are modifiable risk factors for obesity. Raber *et al.* undertook a systematic literature review to evaluate current interventions for CCS that include diet and PA elements to determine whether parent involvement has a significant effect on behavioral outcomes or adiposity. The studies that included direct parental involvement showed positive outcomes on a variety of measures, although additional research is warranted. [See page 338](#)

TBI in childhood and ADHD

Jutta Klee/Getty Images

Yang and coauthors evaluated the risk of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) following childhood traumatic brain injury (TBI). Using Taiwan's National Health Insurance Research Database, the investigators included 10,416 newly diagnosed TBI children between 2001 and 2002 and 41,664 children without TBI. Each individual was followed for nine years to identify ADHD diagnosis. The results

suggest that early TBI is a potential independent risk factor for ADHD. To facilitate reducing the risk of ADHD among children with TBI, a systematic approach including therapeutic intervention should be adopted. [See page 356](#)

Knee-jerk responses in high-risk infants

Light Hunter/Getty Images

In a study of tonic responses, clonus, and reflex irradiation, Hamer *et al.* questioned whether these responses occurred more often in infants at very high risk for cerebral palsy (VHR) than in typically developing (TD) infants. The authors assessed 24 VHR and 26 TD infants around 3 months corrected age. Surface electromyograms of leg, trunk, neck, and arm muscles were recorded while the knee jerk was elicited. The results showed that tonic responses may be regarded as a marker of loss of supraspinal control. [See page 363](#)

Chromosomal microarray analysis

Xu *et al.* analyzed the findings of copy number variation (CNV) studies from a cohort referred for genetics evaluation of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), developmental disability, and intellectual disability (ID). Based on the results of CNV analysis and additional analysis for some cases, the researchers detected pathogenic CNV in 21 of 115 individuals with ASD and/or ID. Their results support the value of CNV analysis in etiological evaluation of

neurodevelopmental disorders. [See page 371](#)

Contaminated nasogastric feeding tubes

Petersen and coinvestigators sought to determine whether there was any benefit to replacing nasogastric feeding tubes (NG-tubes) for preterm infants more often to reduce contamination. In an observational study of used NG-tubes from a tertiary neonatal department, they flushed a saline solution through the tubes, determined the density of bacteria by culture, and related it to the duration of use and any probiotic administration. NG-tubes yielded high densities of bacteria even within the first day of use and probiotic administration did not protect against contamination. [See page 395](#)

Dopamine receptors in mouse intestine

Zizzo and colleagues investigated whether the enteric dopaminergic system undergoes developmental changes after birth. Intestinal mechanical activity was examined *in vitro*. In 2-day-old mice, dopamine was found to induce a contractile response that markedly decreased with age, shifting to a muscular relaxation at weaning. The receptor changes in the enteric nervous system may represent an adaptive response of the intestine to environmental stimuli in order to ensure acquisition of a mature pattern of gut motility. [See page 440](#)