In this issue

REVIEW ARTICLE

Pertussis: A reemerging and an underreported infectious disease

Syed & Bana review the reports of pertussis resurgence from different countries and attempt to investigate reasons behind the reappearance of the disease. Pertussis is still an under reported disease and the available data from the developing countries is not a true picture of the story. Therefore, developing countries need to improve their surveillance systems. Pertussis may have been ignored and unnoticed due to its atypical manifestations in partially immunized population or people with waning immunity. Poor vaccine quality, waning vaccine induced immunity, pathogen adaptation, and enhanced surveillance as well as advancements in diagnostic facilities are some of the reasons considered responsible for the increased reporting of pertussis cases.

see page 1181

ARTICLES

A meta-analysis of the efficacy and safety of managing parotid and submandibular sialoliths using sialendoscopy assisted surgery

Jadu & Jan concluded that sialendoscopy combined with a minor surgical extraction of parotid and submandibular sialoliths is safe and efficacious. The success rate of sialendoscopy combined with minor surgical removal of parotid and submandibular sialoliths ranges from 69-100%. Meta-analysis was performed using a random effect model to calculate the pooled success rate. To measure for publication bias, a funnel plot was graphed and the Fail-Safe N and Begg and Mazumdar rank correlation tests were conducted. Heterogeneity between studies was tested using the Q statistic, with the $x^2$ approach. StatsDirect software (StatsDirect Ltd, Cheshire, UK) 2.7.8 was used for the statistical analysis.

see page 1188

Knowledge of Saudi female university students regarding cervical cancer and acceptance of the human papilloma virus vaccine

Al-Shaikh et al conclude that there is a lack of knowledge and misinformation regarding cervical cancer, Pap smear, and human papilloma virus (HPV) as a major risk factor for cancer of the cervix. These data can be used as a benchmark to formulate effective awareness programs. A self-administered questionnaire was distributed to all participants. Data collected included socio-demographic data, knowledge of cervical cancer risk factors and clinical presentation, Pap smear, and HPV vaccine acceptance. The questionnaire reliability as tested by Cronbach’s alpha was 0.82. The Pap smear was poorly recognized as a screening tool, with 46.7% of students having heard of the test. Senior and medical students had a significantly higher knowledge score.

see page 1223

Knowledge, attitude, and barriers towards the use of evidence based practice among senior dental and medical students in western Saudi Arabia

Bahammam & Linjawi concluded that the reported knowledge and attitudes among the junior health care physicians is considered below the required competency standards. These findings highlight the urgent need for changes in the current educational strategies to assure successful implementation of evidence based practice (EBP) in Saudi Arabia. The students' knowledge and attitudes were low with no significant difference between the 2 groups. Students' knowledge and attitudes towards EBP were assessed: EBP course attendance (DS=40.1%, MS=13.3%; $p=0.000$), reading journals (DS=6.3%, MS=3.3%; $p=0.313$), awareness of EBP components (DS=7.7%, MS=0%; $p=0.332$), and awareness towards the strongest evidence for EBP

see page 1250