
Pediatric Emergency Medicine in Israel

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This issue of ISRJEM is dedicated to specific aspects of the care and management of children in the emergency setting. Appropriately, it comes at a very significant time for pediatric emergency medicine in Israel, heralding the official recognition of the pediatric track within the superspecialty of Emergency Medicine. To commemorate this occasion, and as part of the journal's strive for excellence, we have asked world leaders in pediatric emergency medicine to contribute to this issue. The articles provide information and insights on process, diagnosis and management. We trust they will promote new approaches and improvements in the field of pediatric emergency medicine in Israel and worldwide, and help the journal make its mark as an authoritative source of both the theoretical understanding and practical application of emergency medicine.

Children are not small adults. They have unique anatomical and physiological characteristics that must be addressed during emergency care for an optimal outcome¹. In their article in this issue, Assa and Kozler rightly stress the specific knowledge and skills that can be gained only in departments of pediatric emergency medicine. It is here that you find clinicians and mentors devoted to their young patients who are well versed in the unique teachings of pediatric emergency medicine and who have the ability, commitment and vision to foster and nourish them, and to impart them to others.

This issue encompasses a variety of topics that reflect the wide spectrum of pediatric emergency medicine practice. These include updates and reviews of the management of critically ill patients in departments of pediatric medicine (Hauser), the use of intranasal midazolam for the

treatment of seizures (Klein-Kremer and Goldman), as well as a review of the use of ondansetron for pediatric gastroenteritis (Amir).

The issue also provides fresh perspectives in other relevant areas, such as pediatric prehospital care (Farber et al.), medical education (Assa and Kozler), imaging (Belfer) and child abuse (Lindberg et al.). Since pediatric emergency medicine is still an emerging field, with an enormous need to train new recruits, I chose to cover these topics by state-of-the-art reviews written by leading figures in the field. We hope that this issue will inspire and prompt clinicians in the field to further develop and publish original research, which is an integral and essential part of PEM.

In parallel to the coming of age of pediatric emergency medicine, the ISRJEM itself is undergoing several far-reaching changes directed at increasing the number and quality of the articles and the number of readers. We plan to incorporate more comprehensive reviews of important topics in the field and more contributions from Israeli authors and from renowned leaders in emergency medicine. In addition, the journal's editorial staff will now be concentrated under one roof, and the journal will be managed by an independent office based in Israel.

This is an exciting time for the field of emergency medicine (and pediatric emergency medicine). However, like for all medical disciplines, the publication of well-designed research studies, in addition to in-depth discussions of operational and administrative issues, are vital for its growth and development. We therefore envision an important role for the

journal in this process. We call on all of you who share this dream to lend your efforts to making the ISRJEM a key contributor to emergency health care and medical excellence, both in Israel and globally.

References

1. Wright JL. Emergency medical services for children – I. Clin Pediatr Emerg Med 2006; 7(1):1-2.