candies to very young children is risky. In a recent study, out of 70 cases of tracheo-bronchial foreign bodies, 70% were less than 3 years of age. Cases of poisoning where children have ingested household items like medicines, kerosene etc. are common. All this leads to preventable morbidity and mortality and parents should be made aware of the need to keep such objects away from reach of the children.

Parents in group 2 had favorable percentages in each parameter. This partly reflected the effect of counseling provided by the concerned pediatrician regarding common childhood injuries and their prevention. There have been numerous studies showing that health education through office based counseling can contribute to childhood injury prevention. The Statewide Childhood Injury Prevention Program (SCHIPP) in USA was evaluated in terms of incidence of burns, falls in the home, motor vehicle occupant injuries, poisonings and suffocations. The major positive finding was that there was a significant improvement in safety knowledge and practices and a distinct reduction in incidence of injuries amongst the subjects. To conclude, this study was an attempt at ascertaining parental knowledge and awareness regarding childhood injuries. It was observed that adequate knowledge regarding the subject was lacking, highlighting the need for health care providers to include injury prevention counseling in their services.

The authors are of the view that to be truly representative of parental knowledge, the sample size should be larger and the study be carried out in the community rather than in a hospital setting. The number of patients enrolled in each group was determined arbitrarily and the interviewed parent was not uniform, which could have biased the observations. These the authors limitations are very well where of the of this study.

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REFERENCES


Corrigendum

On page 966, second column, second para, line 16 and 17 as well as in the Table 2, column 1 on page 967 in the December 2003 issue of the journal the misprinted mg/dl must be read as μg/dl. The error is highly regretted.

—Editor