### **Snippets**

### Snippets from the world wide web

Sri Lanka Journal of Child Health, 2002; 31: 91

## Steroids not useful for childhood meningitis in developing countries

In contrast to the experience in developed countries, steroid therapy does not improve the outcomes of children with bacterial meningitis in developing countries.

http://mp.medscape.com/cgibin1/flo?y=hQdqOEIZ10 ODYaOFKb40AU

## Successful stenting of fetal posterior urethral valves reported

A German clinician has for the first time performed successful in utero stenting of posterior urethral valves, a procedure that he says could save the lives of thousands of infants each year.

http://mp.medscape.com/cgibin1/flo?y=hQdqOEIZ10 ODYaOFKb70AX

### HIV-1 hyperimmune globulin may lower motherto-child HIV transmission rates

HIVIGLOB, an HIV-1 hyperimmune globulin produced in Uganda, appears safe and may prevent vertical transmission of HIV infection.

http://mp.medscape.com/cgibin1/flo?y=hQdqOEIZ10 ODYaOFKcFOAn

# Unexpectedly low risk of congenital varicella syndrome reported

The frequency of varicella syndrome among infants born to mothers with clinical varicella zoster virus infection during pregnancy is very low, researchers report.

http://mp.medscape.com/cgibin1/flo?y=hRxLOEIZI O0Dya0Flib0A7

## Persistent or recurrent maternal health problems adversely affect offspring

Continuing maternal problems with smoking, poor physical health and depression are reflected in offspring's health, behaviour and language development at 3 years of age, US physicians report.

http://mp.medscape.com/cgibin1/flo?y=hRvIOEIZIO0D ZkOFLjv0AA

## Immune system differences may explain fewer allergies in children living on farms

European researchers have found that levels of immune system receptors that trigger response to bacterial infection are significantly higher amongst the children of farmers, which may help to explain the lower number of allergies in this population.

http://mp.medscape.com/cgibin1/flo?y=hRvIOEIZIO0D ZkOFLjz0AE

## Some asthmatic children may show emphysema-like lung changes

About a third of studied asthmatic children show low-density areas on high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) scans that are possibly indicative of emphysema-like changes in lung structure, according to Italian researchers.

http://mp.medscape.com/cgibin1/flo?y=hRvIOEIZIO0D ZkOFLj40A3

## Preterm infants at increased risk for cognitive and behavioral problems

Children born prematurely appear to be at increased risk for scoring low on cognitive tests and having certain behavioral problems, including attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), US researchers report.

http://mp.medscape.com/cgibin1/flo?y=hSqF0EIZIO0D ya0FMPT0AI

**B J C Perera** *Joint Editor*