



Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program Update

Study to improve understanding of non-type 1 diabetes in Canadian children and youth

Type 2 diabetes is increasing in Canadian children and youth. And while obesity is considered a significant risk factor, not all obese children and youth develop the disease. A new study by the Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program will look at this and other risk factors.

“The main objective of the study is to determine the incidence of non-type 1 diabetes in children and youth ages 0 to 17 years,” said Dr. Shazhan Amed, a senior endocrinology fellow at The Hospital for Sick Children and one of the study’s principal investigators. “This includes type 2 diabetes, medication-induced diabetes, which also seems to be increasing, and genetic forms of diabetes.”

The study, which began in April, is the first of its kind in Canada. Data will provide baseline estimates for comparison in future studies and will be used to increase awareness about the illness in children and youth, particularly among ethnic populations, who are at increased risk for the disease.

“This study will provide government, policy makers and health care providers with important information and further incentive to develop health promotion

programs to prevent obesity and its co-morbidities,” said Dr. Amed in an interview.

“Traditionally type 1 diabetes has been the most common form of the disease in children. This is still true. But we are seeing more new cases of type 2, so it is important that, as paediatricians, we learn more about the incidence of non-type 1 diabetes in Canada, and the variation in clinical presentation that exists.”

Paediatricians are asked to report on patients with a diagnosis of non-type 1 diabetes with clinical features that are not consistent with classic type 1 diabetes (non-obese child with symptomatic acute hyperglycemia).

Recognizing that many family physicians evaluate children in their practices and that older adolescents may be referred to a specialist in adult endocrinology, researchers are collaborating with the College of Family Physicians of Canada and National Research System to include a sample of family physicians and adult endocrinologists in the study.

*For study details, contact Sarah Srikanthan, Senior CPSP Coordinator, at sarahs@cps.ca or visit www.cps.ca and follow the links to CPSP**

The Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Join us in recognizing this milestone at the CPS annual conference in St. John’s, Nfld. Details available on the section of www.cps.ca