**Background**

• Intussusception is a life-threatening illness. The causes underlying intussusception are not fully understood, although some predisposing factors are known. Intussusception is frequently seen to occur in well-nourished infants.

**Objective**

• To determine whether patients presenting with intussusception have a high prevalence of obesity.

**Subjects & Methods**

• This cross-sectional study was conducted in 100 infants presenting with intussusception aged ≤ 2 years at the Pediatric Surgery Department. Anthropometric measures, history of recent upper respiratory tract infection, timing and type of intervention were recorded. A near median split divided the population into younger (aged < 8 months, N=47) and older (8-24 months, N=53) groups. Obesity was defined as having a body weight for length ≥ 97.7th centile on WHO growth charts.

**Results**

• The study comprised 58 boys and 42 girls, 31% of whom had upper respiratory infection in the preceding month. Obesity was present in 18% of patients, based on WHO growth charts. Among all patients, 18% were obese, based on having a WHO weight-for-length centile of 97.7% or above (Figure 1). The proportion of obese infants was not significantly different across categories of gender (P = 0.50; Figure 1-B), management outcome (hydrostatic reduction vs surgery; P = 0.89; Figure 1-E), or presence of respiratory infection (P = 0.20; Figure 1-D). However, there was a trend towards a higher percentage of obese infants within the younger (25%) compared to older age groups (12%, P = 0.085, Figure 1-C).

**Conclusions**

• There is a high prevalence of obesity in infants presenting with intussusception, more so under 8 months of age. The mechanistic link between obesity and the pathogenesis of intussusception deserves investigation.

**References**


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