CORTICOSTEROID USE: PRACTICES AND ATTITUDES OF PEDIATRICIANS

Opal Sekler Bsc1,3, Anat Segev-Becker MD1, Hagar ... is a stress dose

1 wk after cessation of short term steroid use (5 d)

Respondents chose 1 or more answers

VARIABLES ASSOCIATED WITH CORTICOSTEROID PROFICIENCY

Parameter | B | SE | Lower | Upper | P
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Age (reference, <30 y) | 0.650 | 1.538 | -2.364 | 3.665 | 0.672
50-67 y | 0.839 | 1.765 | -2.619 | 4.297 | 0.634
> 67 y | -0.786 | 1.929 | -4.567 | 2.994 | 0.683
Sex (reference, male) | -0.435 | 0.444 | -1.305 | 0.435 | 0.327
Female | Abroad | -1.059 | 0.503 | -2.044 | -0.074 | 0.035
Years in pediatric practice (reference, < 5 y) | 5-10 y | 1.548 | 0.695 | 0.185 | 2.911 | 0.026
> 10 y | 0.690 | 0.725 | -0.732 | 2.111 | 0.342
Medical school (reference, Israel) | 5057 y | 0.079 | 1.065 | -0.200 | 2.167 | 0.941
> 20 y | Medical training (reference, general pediatrics) | 2.271 | 1.060 | 0.193 | 4.350 | 0.032
Pediatric endocrinology | -0.183 | 0.831 | -1.811 | 1.445 | 0.826
Other pediatric subspecialties | General pediatrics & subspecialty | 2.023 | 0.823 | 0.411 | 3.636 | 0.014
Subspecialty only | 1.909 | 0.9319 | 0.083 | 3.736 | 0.041
Regression coefficients are unstandardized

RESULTS

Respondents:
• 349 pediatricians (45.8% males) completed the survey
• 76.5% studied medicine in Israel
• 59% had a subspecialty
• 10.6% were pediatric endocrinologists
• Highly experienced physicians:
  • 58% had >10 years of pediatric clinical experience
  • 57.7% treat on average more than 60 patients/week
Steroid prescription:
• 47.5% estimated they prescribed corticosteroids to 10-30% of their patients and 7.5% to over 30% of their patients
Tapering-off of steroids:
• 4.1% responded ‘not sure’ when ‘tapering-off’ of steroids is required
Stress dose:
• 8.3% responded ‘not sure’ what ‘stress dose’ refers to
• 10.1% responded ‘not sure’ when stress dose is required

Pediatric endocrinologists scored higher on all knowledge-based items compared to general pediatricians and other subspecialists:
• mean total score: 11.3 ± 2.5 vs. 7.9 ± 2.6 vs. 7.0 ± 2.7 (P < 0.001)
• and in each of the subscores (P < 0.001)

Overall, 96.2% of respondents felt it would be helpful to participate in continued medical education sessions.

CONCLUSIONS

Substantial practice gaps exist between pediatric endocrinologists, general pediatricians and other subspecialists in both corticosteroid prescription practice and knowledge.

Continued medical education programs on the topic of corticosteroids are warranted to improve clinician competence and performance and patient outcomes.

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