

Abstract

Adherence of pediatric residents in using Thai children guideline for screening anemia in well children, Siriraj Hospital

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Background According to a guideline in child health supervision (CHS) set by The Royal College of Pediatricians of Thailand in 2014, there was a recommendation on anemia screening in children age between 9 to 12 months. The researcher is interested in evaluating physician's adherence to the recommended anemia screening at the pediatric outpatient department Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital. The physician practice to the recommendation was assessed in two settings including well child clinic (WCC) and continuity care clinic (COC).

Objective To study the rate of following the recommendation and practice variation on anemia screening by pediatric residents

Study Design Retrospective cross-sectional study by medical record review

Material and Methods The data of patients who visit WCC and COC at the age more than 12 month from the date of IRB approval and less than 4 year of age were reviewed. Data collections include the timing of anemia screening and results of complete blood count (CBC) and hematocrit (Hct). The opinion of pediatric residents on anemia screening were surveyed especially the limitations if they do not follow the recommendation.

Results A total of 184 children from two clinics were recruited in the study (COC 153 and WCC 31). The mean age of anemia screening was 12.78 months. The percentage of anemia screening at COC and WCC were 59.8 and 7.6 respectively. When comparing the two settings, there was significant difference (p value 0.04) of practice variation to the recommendation. Time constraint was the main reason for non-adherence to the guideline.

Conclusions Most of pediatric residents adhere to the recommended guideline on anemia screening. The proportion of anemia screening in COC was higher than WCC.

Keywords child health supervision, anemia screening, well child clinic, continuity care clinic