POSTER TO PRINT: A 10-YEAR REVIEW OF PEDIATRIC ABSTRACTS AT THE CAS

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INTRODUCTION: To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Canadian Journal of Anesthesia (CJA), we describe Canadian pediatric anesthesia research over the past decade by analyzing abstracts presented at the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society's (CAS) annual meetings between 1994 and 2004.

METHODS: Annual meeting abstracts published in the CJA from 1994 to 2004 were checked for pediatric anesthesia research content by searching for titles listed under the pediatrics subheading or which included any of the following keywords: pediatric, children, infant, and caudal. Because a separate CAS Annual Meeting was not held in 2000 when the World Anesthesia Congress met in Montréal, this year was excluded. Abstracts that were subsequently published were identified with Entrez PubMed[®] by conducting author searches or by combining authors and keywords. Publications from 2002 to 2004 abstracts were additionally searched for in the tables of content of the following journals from October 2004 to January 2005: Canadian Journal of Anesthesia, Pediatric Anesthesia, Anesthesia and Analgesia, and Anesthesiology. The number of citations of each publication was identified using Science Citation Index (Web of Science[®]). Research subjects were identified using the Keyword Index of the journal Pediatric Anesthesia from 2002-2004. All data was maintained in an Excel[®] database.

RESULTS: Ninety pediatric anesthesia abstracts were presented in the past decade, with submissions ranging from 4 to 13 per year. The majority were presented by Canadian institutions (86.7%) and 42.2% involved randomized controlled trials. Only 6.7% involved animal studies. The five most frequent areas of research were analgesia/regional, equipment/techniques, pharmacology, optimization and respiratory. Of the 90 abstracts presented, 39 (43%) were subsequently published as of January 14, 2005. The average abstract-to-publication time was 1.6 years. The number of citations received from such publications ranged from 1 to 58.

DISCUSSION: This publication rate is similar to rates previously reported (1, 2, 3). Annual abstract numbers may be influenced by submissions to subspecialty meetings however, the post-2001 increase is encouraging. Further investigation into workplace organization may be helpful in identifying factors which encourage research participation.

REFERENCES:

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