Effect of Tepid Sponging Versus Warm Sponging on Body Temperature and Comfort among Under-Five Children with Pyrexia: Authors' Reply

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To the Editor: Panda and Sharawat have commented [1] on our article published recently in Indian Journal of Pediatrics [2]. They have added a few points related to our study, the reply to which is given below.

In this study, the investigator did not withhold paracetamol to children. The children received oral paracetamol 15 min before sponging. There was 39 samples in tepid sponging and 39 samples in warm sponging, both were on oral paracetamol 10 to 15 mg per kg and not on IV paracetamol. The main focus of the study was on comfort of the child with reduction in body temperature [2]. This study shows that warm sponging is effective in promoting comfort among children with pyrexia than tepid sponging [3]. The study aimed to check if there is any significant association between level of comfort with selected demographic variables such as age, gender, religion, previous experience, type of illness, weight of child, and antipyretics.

It is concluded that there is no significant association between the level of comfort and selected demographic variables ($p > 0.05$) [4]. The researchers selected the subjects through inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Inclusion criteria:

- Hospitalized children with fever ranging from 100 to 103 °F.
- Children in the age group of under 5 y.
- Children receiving antipyretics.
- Children receiving first line antibiotics.

Exclusion criteria:

- Children who are contraindicated for sponging like burns, head injury, septicemia, open wounds, etc.
- Unconscious or seriously sick children.
- Children with comorbidities.

During the intervention comfort of the child was assessed by using Kathy Kolcaba's modified comfort behavior checklist. The researchers focused on the body temperature and comfort of the child and also the investigators had selected two groups—tepid sponging and warm sponging. Through the comparison of these groups, the investigators understood the comfort level of children [2]. Any prior teaching were not attempted in them. The investigators explained about the benefit of sponge bath and provided sponge bath and demonstrated to the parents.

Declarations

Conflict of Interest None.

References

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