Pediatric Endocrinology, Lead Toxicity in Sickle Cell Disease, and HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis

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This issue of Pediatric Annals, which explores the aspects of deviation from normal growth and development, has been insightful because I have always found pediatric endocrinology to be challenging. The co-guest editors, Dr. Amit Lahoti, who is a pediatric endocrinologist, and Dr. Deepak Kamat, an editorial board member, are knowledgeable about disorders of growth and development.

The articles in the issue are organized in a clinically practical fashion, which facilitates learning and retention. For me, one of the most important take-home messages from all the articles is establishing a protocol for when it is appropriate to step up the level of management and treatment (ie, referring the patient to a pediatric endocrinologist) of a clinical issue. The goal is to be thoughtful and feel comfortable with your evaluation and limitations in making a clinical decision.

LEAD TOXICITY AND SICKLE CELL DISEASE

As a Feature, Drs. Josephine Misun Jung and Radhika Peddinti present an important article about children with lead toxicity and sickle cell disease (SCD). It is important to remember that the vasoocclusive crisis in SCD and lead toxicity can manifest clinically in a similar way. Although lead toxicity is uncommon in children with SCD, pica is commonly seen in children with SCD.

HEALTHY BABY/HEALTHY CHILD

In this month’s Healthy Baby/Healthy Child column, Dr. Sabrina Fernandez presents an educational, thoughtful article about the utility of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis in adolescents who are at high risk for acquiring the infection.