

**00427 Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) Use Among Paediatric Emergency Department Patients**

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**Aims:** To determine the period prevalence and nature of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) use among paediatric emergency department (ED) patients and the perceptions of CAM among the CAM administrators.

**Methodology:** Voluntary and anonymous self administered surveys are completed by parents and guardians who accompany their children who present to a paediatric emergency department of a tertiary centre. Children recruited to the study will be <16 years old and will be excluded from the study if their enrollment is deemed inappropriate by emergency staff (upset, distracted, anxious) or if their parents/guardians are unable to read and/or complete the survey. Recruitment of survey subjects will be carried out 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. The study design and questionnaire is based on a similar study done in Melbourne Paediatric centre although no similar studies have yet been replicated in Singapore. General data collected would include age, sex, ethnicity, presenting complaint of the patient and any regular prescription medications taken. Parents/guardians would be asked to choose from a list of CAMs that has been administered to their children in the past 12 months and answer a list of questions regarding their perception towards CAM based on a 5-point Likert scale.

**Result:** CAMs are widely used in our local population with widely differing views regarding their safety and efficacy. Majority of parents who administer CAMs to their children do not encounter significant side effects. We also note that the history of prior or current CAM use is under-reported to physicians and also less frequently requested by physicians as well.

**Conclusion:** CAM use is common among paediatric ED patients although rarely reported to the ED doctor. Parents/carers who administer CAM have differing perceptions of CAM safety from those who do not.