



Title	Sphygmomanometer in Children
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Reference	Technology Review Report, 016/07, 2007. http://medicaldev.moh.gov.my/uploads/sphy%20children.pdf

Aim

To assess the effectiveness of using a sphygmomanometer on children in surveys.

Conclusions and results

Types of sphygmomanometers to be used in children, especially in fieldwork, depend on aims of the study and logistical issues. Although a mercury sphygmomanometer is the most appropriate in screening tests, fair evidence supports the effectiveness or appropriateness of oscillometric blood pressure (BP) devices in obtaining indirect BP measurements in infants and children. These devices may continue to gain wider use (especially when lack of observer variation and accuracy of the device are considered). However, one should be aware of the need to assess the validity and reliability of various models of each device, especially new ones, before using it in epidemiological studies.

Recommendations

Automated oscillometric devices may be used in epidemiological studies or surveys, especially when ease of staff training is a critical concern and the differences in BP between groups are more important than absolute levels.

Methods

The literature was searched through electronic databases, specifically PubMed, Ovid, Science Direct, and general databases, eg, Yahoo and Google. The search strategy used the following terms either alone or in various combinations: "sphygmomanometer" AND "children", "sphygmomanometer" AND "children" AND "effectiveness". The PubMed search was limited to Human, English, and All Child (0-18 years), and the Ovid Database search was limited to Past Three Year's Publications.

Further research/reviews required

Not applicable.