Sleep-Disordered Breathing and Blood Pressure in Children

Brent M. Egan

The article by Bixler et al in this edition of Hypertension adds to a growing body of evidence that risk factors associated with abdominal obesity in adults, namely, sleep-disordered breathing (apnea-hypopnea), occur in children as well. Specifically, sleep-disordered breathing appeared to be more strongly associated with waist circumference, a surrogate marker for abdominal obesity, than with body mass index, a more generalized or global obesity marker. Although body mass index in children and youth is strongly related to waist circumference, a more generalized or global obesity marker. Although body mass index in children and youth is strongly related to prevalent metabolic syndrome, other data show that waist-to-hip ratio, a more generalized or global obesity marker. Although body mass index in children and youth is strongly related to prevalent metabolic syndrome, other data show that waist circumference is as good as, if not better than, body mass index as a predictive factor for metabolic syndrome at early ages. In adults, prevalent and incident sleep-disordered breathing are associated with waist circumference. However, sleep-disordered breathing is associated with hypertension independently of both body mass index and waist-to-hip ratio. In this regard, it should be noted that waist circumference but not body mass index was included in the multivariate regression in Table 4 of the report. Thus, it is not clear whether the association of sleep-disordered breathing with blood pressure in children is independent of both waist circumference and body mass index. Even without further studies, the current report adds to the weight of evidence that health risks associated with abdominal obesity begin early in life, and primary prevention should begin even earlier.

Disclosures

None.

References

Sleep-Disordered Breathing and Blood Pressure in Children
Brent M. Egan

Hypertension. 2008;52:807; originally published online October 6, 2008;
doi: 10.1161/HYPERTENSIONAHA.108.118083

Hypertension is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
Copyright © 2008 American Heart Association, Inc. All rights reserved.
Print ISSN: 0194-911X. Online ISSN: 1524-4563

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the
World Wide Web at:
http://hyper.ahajournals.org/content/52/5/807

Permissions: Requests for permissions to reproduce figures, tables, or portions of articles originally published in Hypertension can be obtained via RightsLink, a service of the Copyright Clearance Center, not the Editorial Office. Once the online version of the published article for which permission is being requested is located, click Request Permissions in the middle column of the Web page under Services. Further information about this process is available in the Permissions and Rights Question and Answer document.

Reprints: Information about reprints can be found online at:
http://www.lww.com/reprints

Subscriptions: Information about subscribing to Hypertension is online at:
http://hyper.ahajournals.org//subscriptions/