cases and 210 controls) were analysed regarding phenotypic characteristics for risk of melanoma as well as number of grandparents born in Europe. European ancestry (Spanish, Italian, Germanic or Slavic, and 2 or more European country), eye colour (light brown and green or blue), presence of nevi, use of sunscreen, referred episodes of sunburn in adolescence or not, were independently associated with melanoma. Portuguese ancestry was not associated in multivariate logistic regression analysis. Our data confirmed the importance of European ancestry as a susceptibility factor. The higher tendency to develop melanoma in persons with those ancestries could be related not only to the phenotypic but probably also to other genetic characteristics.

**Objective**

Growth faltering has been defined as failure to gain weight or actual loss of weight, and weight gain <300 g over a period of three consecutive months.

**Results**

The cumulative incidence of growth faltering among 0–6 years children was 930 per 1000 children per year (95% CI 900.8 to 959.2). The number of growth faltering episodes per child per year was 3.1 (95% CI 2.9 to 3.3). In the multivariate analysis we found presence of anaemia, presence of any illness & improper household ventilation as significant predictors of growth faltering.

**Conclusion**

Our finding suggests more focus should be given on early detection and timely correction of growth faltering rather than just identification and treatment of severely malnourished children.

**A RETROSPECTIVE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY OF ENDEMIC WATERBORNE ILLNESS IN A PASTORAL COMMUNITY IN KENYA**

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Case-patients for a retrospective epidemiological cum microbiological study in Njoro Town, Kenya were selected after self-report of waterborne illness within 7 days of exposure through drinking water. Controls were matched for location, household income and type of drinking water source. Households with piped water in one high-income district reported considerably lower illness rates compared to unconnected households in two low-income districts. Analysis of the ORs identified water from the stream to be associated with the highest risk of illness (OR=3.95, p=0.05) compared to untreated rainwater (OR=2.45, p=0.02), untreated water from boreholes (OR=1.90, p=0.02) or treated water from any source (OR=0.62, p=0.01). Bacteria densities in water obtained from the stream were generally 3 log units higher compared to other sources, staying within 3–4 log units for HPC (cfu/ml) and TC (cfu/100 ml), 2–3 log units (cfu/100 ml) for Escherichia coli and intestinal enterococci and within 1 log unit (cfu/100 ml) for Salmonella. Several confounding risk factors other than contaminated water were identified. Their detection for over 50% of all illness cases was significant. It was concluded that the importance of drinking water quality as the most likely source of endemic waterborne illness in the community may have been previously overestimated. Therefore, interventions on water supply in the town should include strategies that address confounding risk factors, especially, poor hygiene and occupational hazards, as well as piped water distribution to low-income households.

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