

Librarians' Participation in Evidence-Based Pediatrics

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Based on the Hippocratic oath ["I will follow that method of treatment which ... I consider for the benefit of my patients"] doctors practicing medicine in the information society have to combine their skill and experience with best evidence from the scientifically valid and relevant literature. The Pediatric Clinic of the Palacký University Faculty of Medicine (Olomouc, Czech Republic) has been introducing evidence-based medicine concepts since 1999. Clinicians, faculty and students have an access to a number of health-related databases (Biological Abstracts, Web of Science, Medline, Embase, Healthstar, Proquest Medical Library, The Cochrane Library, EBSCO Publishing, ScienceDirect) including around 300 fulltext electronic journals. A working group has been established recently to promote EBM in clinical decision making and teaching. It consists of clinicians, epidemiologists, experts in medical informatics, research scientists, faculty, librarians and students. The group has a multi-purpose knowledge-management programme focused on the following issues:

- help the librarians master statistical concepts and critical appraisal of the literature,
- foster collegial and proficient communication among clinicians, librarians, faculty and medical students,
- trigger a movement of the medical curricula to evidence-based medicine.
- facilitate the clinicians in constructing sensitive subject searches combined with methodological filters.

One such sensitive subject search will be demonstrated to show how it could support the evaluation of the severity of childhood fever of unknown aetiology and its subsequent management. The authors will explain in detail the use of "the best evidence" to determine which infants are at low risk of serious bacterial illness and can therefore be treated as outpatients without hospitalization and increase in morbidity. In conclusion, "golden rules" will be offered how to assess the methodological quality of published biomedical papers.