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No author conflicts

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Abstract:

*Introduction:* Understanding pediatric sudden cardiac death may inform age-specific prevention strategies.

*Methods:* We performed a retrospective population-based study in Ontario, Canada of all sudden cardiac death cases (SCD) in a 5 year period (2005 -2009) involving persons aged 1-19 years identified from the comprehensive database of the Office of the Chief Coroner. Of 1204 coroner's cases, 351 potential SCD cases were reviewed.

*Results:* Of 116 cases of adjudicated SCD, there was no identifiable cause of death in 60 (52%). The majority were male (66%) and median age was 12.7 years. The incidence of SCD was greatest between 1 and 2 years (3.14/100,000 person-years), decreased and then increased to 1.01/100,000 person years (15-19 years). Autopsy findings were normal in 83% of children under 5 years of age, and were more likely to be abnormal in those 10 years and older (OR: 9.0; 95% CI 3.3, 24.9). In 9% the pathology findings may be of uncertain significance. Most events occurred in the home (68%). Activity level at time of event was associated with both age group

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