

**Henoch-Schonlein purpura in children. Influence of age on the incidence of nephritis and arthritis**

*Reply from the Author*

*To the editor*

I read with interest the article by Hamdan and Barqawi<sup>1</sup> on Henoch-Schonlein purpura (HSP) in children: influence of age on the incidence of nephritis and arthritis. The authors had concluded that the occurrence of arthritis and nephritis in pediatric patients with HSP was age-related, and the incidence was more in children above 10 years of age. It is worthy to mention that the diagnosis of HSP in the studied patients was based on the old (1990) American College of Rheumatology criteria.<sup>2</sup> However, the diagnostic criteria of HSP have been revised with the introduction of the recent European League Against Rheumatism/Paediatric Rheumatology European Society (EULAR/PReS) (2006) endorsed consensus criteria.<sup>3</sup> These criteria composed of mandatory palpable purpura with at least one of the following 4 features: diffuse abdominal pain, acute arthritis or arithralgia, renal involvement (any hematuria or proteinuria), and any tissue biopsy showing predominant immunoglobulin A (IgA) deposition. Reconsidering the data of the study according to these revised criteria, the conclusion reached by the authors might be altered.

**Mahmood D. Al-Mendalawi**  
*Department of Pediatrics  
Al-Kindy College of Medicine  
Baghdad University  
Baghdad, Iraq*

We would like to thank Dr. Al-Mendalawi for his comment on our published paper. There are 2 classifications of Henoch-Schonlein purpura. The first classification was based on the American College of Rheumatology criteria.<sup>2</sup> The second classification was endorsed by EULAR/PReS.<sup>3</sup> Both classifications are similar except that the second classification has an extra new criteria: any biopsy showing predominant IgA deposition, and this is not mandatory to establish the diagnosis. Our patients had met the criteria of both classifications, and we do not need to carry out biopsies as the cases were straightforward. It follows that the results will not change if we used either the first, or the second classification.

**Jahed M. Hamdan  
Mousa A. Barqawi**  
*Department of Pediatrics and Nephrology  
King Abdullah University Hospital  
Jordan University of Science and Technology  
Irbid, Jordan*

### References

1. Hamdan JM, Barqawi MA. Henoch-Schonlein purpura in children. Influence of age on the incidence of nephritis and arthritis. *Saudi Med J* 2008; 29: 549-552.
2. Mills JA, Michel BA, Bloch DA, Calabrese LH, Hunder GG, Arend WP, et al. The American College of Rheumatology 1990 criteria for the classification of Henoch-Schonlein purpura. *Arthritis Rheum* 1990; 33: 1114-1121.
3. Ozen S, Ruperto N, Dillon MJ, Bagga A, Barron K, Davin JC, et al. EULAR/PReS endorsed consensus criteria for the classification of childhood vasculitides. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2006; 65: 936-941.

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