Safety of Newborns’ Soft Palate Manipulation As A Saudi’s Traditional Medicine To Treat Infant Colic and Poor Feeding

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Background

- Infant colic can be anxiety-provoking for many families.
- Even if a child does not suffer from infant colic, a mother might struggle with feeding her.
- For such challenges, young and experienced mothers might seek complementary medicine.
- In Saudi Arabia, infant colic and poor feeding have been treated by traditional healers for decades.

Methodology

- Saudi traditional healers use a maneuver called “Autheem - عظيم.”
- This maneuver is based on a common belief among Saudi public of urgent needs to manipulate soft palates for struggling infants.

Results

- To our knowledge, this is the first study to investigate safety of “Autheem” therapy and its impact on young infants’ development.
- Lethargy, head shape change and poor feedings immediately post “Autheem” therapy are alarming.
- Association with developmental delays might indicate long term impact of this therapy on growing brains.
- More research is needed to establish causality.

Discussion and Conclusion

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References
