**PREDICTORS OF CHILDHOOD OBESITY AND ADULTHOOD BLOOD PRESSURE LEVELS**

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*Background*: Hypertension, a disease of significant public health concern, is a major cardiovascular risk factor affecting a majority of the world’s population. Many studies have shown the association between growth patterns in early life and the development of hypertension in adulthood.

*Objectives*: The aim of this scoping review was to examine the empirical literature that have assessed the relationship between childhood anthropometric measures and adulthood systolic (SBP) and/or diastolic blood pressure (DBP) measurements.

*Methods*: Electronic databases were searched from 1990 until January 2016 for studies which enrolled children and adolescents between ages 6 months to 19 years and followed them up for at least 4 years were included. The age at assessment of blood pressure was in adulthood (≥20 years). Studies from both developed and developing countries were included. Quality assessment was done using the Newcastle-Ottawa Scale.

*Results*: Of the 4021 studies found, sixteen studies from fourteen cohorts were included in the study. Almost all the studies that demonstrated the association between childhood BMI and adulthood SBP found a positive association, whereas most of the studies for DBP showed little or no association. Three studies showed being persistently obese from childhood to adulthood had the highest risk for having higher SBP and DBP in adulthood as compared to never being obese. Also, reverting back to a normal BMI in adulthood after being obese as a child significantly decreased the risk of having higher SBP and DBP levels. Childhood skinfold thickness, weight and waist circumference as predictors of childhood obesity also showed a positive association with adult SBP and DBP levels. *Conclusions*: All the predictors of childhood obesity like BMI, weight, skinfold thickness and waist circumference positively predict adulthood blood pressure levels.

Acknowledgements: WHO, Geneva, Switzerland; ICMR, New Delhi, India