

News Article downloaded from - <http://www.bioportfolio.com> on Wednesday, November 25, 2009
Read [Vitamin Supplements Insufficient for Children with Biliary Atresia](#) on BioPortfolio.com
(<http://www.bioportfolio.com/news/Vitamin-Supplements-Insufficient-for-Children.html>)

Vitamin Supplements Insufficient for Children with Biliary Atresia

Tuesday 27th of October 2009 12:02

WASHINGTON and BOSTON, Oct. 27 /PRNewswire/ -- Commercially available multivitamin preparations commonly given to infants with biliary atresia to prevent fat soluble vitamin deficiencies are ineffective, according to researchers presenting at the 2009 annual meeting of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases. "This study examined a multivitamin preparation, which is often used by clinicians due to the convenience and perception that it is effective, however, there are alternatives, such as giving multiple prescriptions of individual vitamins and/or intramuscular injections," said Benjamin Shneider, MD, principal investigator for this study.

Although biliary atresia is a rare disease - occurring in one in 13,000 to 14,000 children in the USA - it is the most common indication for liver transplantation in children. The only current treatment is surgery or transplantation, and the disease occurs in infants within weeks of birth. The surgery performed on these patients is the reconstruction of the extrahepatic biliary tract connecting the liver with the small intestine. Fifty-seven infants who underwent this surgery were studied, and 40 of those 57 had vitamin deficiencies by one year of age despite the use of commercially available multivitamin preparations.

Long-term consequences of these vitamin deficiencies were not specifically analyzed in this study, but Dr. Shneider did speak to potential consequences for these patients, "Issues that can potentially arise in the first year of life include bone disease secondary to vitamin D deficiency and clotting disorder or bleeding related to vitamin K deficiency."

The authors of this study concluded that the current multivitamin supplements are not adequate and monitoring for deficiencies and alternative methods of supplementation are needed. According to Dr. Shneider, "The Childhood Liver Disease Research and Education Network (ChiLDREN, formerly the Biliary Atresia Research Consortium), a multicentered NIH funded study group, is ideally positioned to address this issue and other matters related to the pathogenesis, prognosis and treatment of biliary atresia and other forms of cholestatic liver disease in children."

Abstract title:

A prospective multicentered investigation of vitamin supplementation in infants with biliary atresia: Interim Analysis from the biliary atresia research consortium (BARC)

About the AASLD

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (www.aasld.org) is the leading medical society focused

solely on advancing the science and practice of hepatology and represents more than 3,300 practitioners, researchers, and allied health professionals worldwide. Founded by physicians in 1950, AASLD has upheld the standards of the profession and fostered research that generates treatment options for the millions of patients with liver diseases.

This year's Liver Meeting, held in Boston, Massachusetts, October 30 - November 3, will bring together more than 7,000 researchers from 55 countries. A pressroom will be available from October 31 at the annual meeting. For copies of abstracts and press releases, or to arrange for pre-conference research interviews contact Gregory Bologna at 703-299-9766. To pre-register, call Ann Tracy at 703-299-9766.

Press releases, additional information for the media, and all abstracts are available online at www.aasld.org.

Media Contact: Gregory Bologna
703/299-9766
gbologna@aaasld.org
Press Room: October 31 - November 3, 2009
Hynes Convention Center, Room 209
Telephone: (617) 954-2827
Researcher: Benjamin Shneider, MD
Email: benjamin.shneider@chp.edu
Phone: (412) 692-5180

This release was issued through The Xpress Press News Service, merging e-mail and satellite distribution technologies to reach business analysts and media outlets worldwide. For more information, visit <http://www.XpressPress.com>

SOURCE American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD)

Via PR Newswire - PRNewswire.co.uk

Nothing in this document should be used in place of personal medical advice from your own qualified medical practitioner. See BioPortfolio.com [User Agreement](#)

Send comments and feedback to:
Peter Barfoot Managing Director, BioPortfolio Ltd.
UK Tel: (+44) 1300 321501
USA Voicemail and Fax: (+1) 415 680 2472
[Peter Barfoot peter.barfoot@bioportfolio.com](mailto:peter.barfoot@bioportfolio.com)

All rights reserved. All other trademarks recognized.

BioPortfolio Limited is registered in England & Wales at Stafford House, 10 Prince of Wales Road, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1PW, UK. No.3312883 VAT No. GB 744 6483 10
Copyright 1997-2009 - BioPortfolio Limited.

