An Assessment for Diagnostic and Therapeutic Modalities For Management Of Pediatric Iron Deficiency Anemia In Saudi Arabia: A Crossectional Study.

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Abstract
This study aims to assess the diagnostic criteria and therapeutic modalities for pediatric IDA employed by physicians in a major public healthcare facility in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Outcomes
Wide variability was observed in IDA diagnosis and therapy practices. For nutritional IDA, only 15.6% recommended no other laboratory tests in addition to CBC. The majority preferred treatment with ferrous sulfate (77.6%) divided into two doses (57.1%), but the total daily elemental iron doses varied widely from 2 to 6 mg/kg. For intravenous iron, 42.9% recommended iron dextran, 32.7% iron sucrose, and 13.4% would continue oral iron. Of all assessed factors, median score was significantly highest in pediatric hematologists compared with pediatricians, family medicine specialists and GPs; \( p = 0.007 \), and those work in tertiary care compared with those in primary care; \( p = 0.043 \). However, in multivariate robust regression analysis, overall score was only significantly associated with professional qualification.

Keywords: Iron deficiency anemia; treatment; diagnosis; assessment; pediatric.
