

Nursing and Allied Health Abstracts

Title: ACE PROCEDURES ON TOILETING INDEPENDENCE IN THE PEDIATRIC SPINA BIFIDA POPULATION

Presenting Author: Drew Davis, Department of Pediatrics, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Additional Authors:

- Cynthia Cortes, Department of Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine, Children's Health System
- Charles Law, Department of Pediatrics, University of Alabama at Birmingham
- Chevis Shannon, Department of Pediatric Neurosurgery, Children's Hospital
- David Joseph, Department of Surgery, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Background: Attaining independence in performing activities of daily living, including achieving continence of bowel and bladder usually occurs before children are enrolled in school. Children who are incontinent of bowel and bladder may have emotional difficulties, a poorer self image, and a lower quality of life than their same age peers. The ACE procedure is an option for many children and youth with spina bifida who have neurogenic bowels to help them achieve bowel continence.

Method: The WeeFIM, an instrument used to assess functional independence in children, was administered to fifteen children between the ages of 10 and 18 with spina bifida who have had an ACE procedure and are followed by the multidisciplinary clinic team. The pre and post ACE procedure toileting, bowel, and bladder independence scores were compared to determine if the children were more independent in their toileting, and bowel and bladder management after the ACE procedure.

Results: Results from this study indicate that after undergoing the ACE procedure children were more independent with their bowel program than prior to the surgery.

Conclusion: The ACE procedure can assist persons with neurogenic bowels achieve bowel continence.