

knowledge, no similar study has been performed in a multi-ethnic Asian population. This will allow identification of gaps in our healthcare system that can be addressed to decrease the proportion of inappropriate PED attendances. In the COVID-19 era, we also aim to review how these trends have changed in a pandemic.

**Methods** A retrospective study was performed on all attendances to the largest PED in Singapore from 1 January to 31 July 2019 and 2020. A total of 153,631 visits were included for analysis.

Attendances were classified into appropriate or inappropriate depending on resources used and eventual disposition. An appropriate attendance (AA) was defined as fulfilling any of the following criteria: (1) investigated in emergency department (excluding urine studies in children aged 3 years and older); (2) treated in emergency department (excluding basic enteral anti-pyretic medications, prescription medications, or performing of simple procedures); or (3) admitted to the inpatient ward or discharged with specialist follow-up. All other attendances were hence classified as inappropriate attendances (IAs).

Univariate and multivariate analysis was performed to identify predictors of inappropriate attendances.

**Results** A total of 31,657 attendances (20.6%) were classified as inappropriate attendances. On multivariate analysis, the three most significant factors predicting inappropriate attendances were lower triage acuity (P3 vs P1, OR 37.37, 95%CI 27.73–50.36), mode of arrival (self vs ambulance or police escort, OR 1.76, 95%CI 1.60–1.94), and first visits (re-attendance within 72 hours vs first visit, OR 0.56, 95%CI 0.50–0.64). Attendances in 2020 decreased by 40.2% from 2019, with a smaller proportion of inappropriate attendances in 2020 (21.7% in 2019 vs 18.8% in 2020,  $p < 0.001$ ). Similarly, abscondment rates (0.41% in 2019 vs 0.31% in 2020) and re-attendance rates (1.4% in 2019 and 1.2% in 2020) decreased in 2020.

**Conclusions** This study identified the frequency of inappropriate visits, and predictors of these visits. From our data, possible initiatives to decrease inappropriate PED use would be to equip PCPs with facilities for basic fingerpick blood tests for the paediatric population. This study paves the way for direction of future research and educational efforts towards these groups to decrease inappropriate use of the emergency department.

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### INTERGENERATIONAL PERSPECTIVES OF PATERNAL PARENTING PRACTICES: A DESCRIPTIVE QUALITATIVE STUDY

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**Background** Parenting practices are behaviours that are known to be challenging and complex. Differences in these behaviours have been proven to have significant implications in child's health and development. Research shows how paternal parenting behaviours can mould the concept of fatherhood for the next generation. Female participation in the workforce, dual income families are on the rise. This promotes father's involvement in child care. Despite the increment in father's participation, the perspectives of fathers, especially grandfathers, remains under-explored. There is a need to further

### Abstract 333 Table 1

Personal traits influencing father's perspectives	Moral value Personal Beliefs Personality
External influences that shape parenting	Societal views about fatherhood Cultural influences Observations in real life
Personal views on parenting	Individual parenting experiences Past childhood experiences Exposure and knowledge about parenting Situational Circumstances
Child's traits that influence parenting	Child's demographics Child's personality, interests and behaviour Future of the child

understand the relationship between a father and a son and how it shapes fatherhood. No such study has been conducted in a multicultural context like Singapore.

**Objectives** The study aims to explore the intergenerational perspectives of paternal parenting practices in Singapore.

**Methods** A descriptive qualitative approach was adopted. Purposive sampling was used to recruit 12 dyads (grandfathers and fathers) from the tertiary public pediatric hospital in Singapore. Face-to-face interview with a semi-structured guide was conducted. Thematic analysis was employed for data analysis.

**Results** Four themes and 13 sub themes related to the influences that affect grandfathers' and fathers' perspectives on parenting were generated. The four main themes are shown in table 1 below:

**Conclusions** The study explored grandfathers' and fathers' views, beliefs and experiences on paternal parenting. Findings provided us the information to compare between two generations, deepening the understanding of a father-son's relationship, while adding valuable insights to the topic of fatherhood. Findings also encourage improvements to policy and practice, that are important for fathers to assimilate into fatherhood and promote positive child outcomes.

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### IRON AND VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY IN YOUNG CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER IN SINGAPORE

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**Background** Iron and vitamin D have been implicated to play an important role in cognition and neurodevelopment respectively. Existing evidence suggests that correcting deficiencies in both these nutrients can improve Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) symptoms. Children with ASD are also at greater risk for these deficiencies due to behavioural difficulties and food selectivity. Extant literature shows highly variable rates of these deficiencies and variable practices in routine screening among different populations.