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| **Title of Research Presentation** (Sentence case)Exploring early obesity prevention practices among culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Sydney, Australia: perspectives from healthcare professionals |
| **Maximum 2500 characters (including spaces but excluding title)****Background/Objectives**In Australia, children and adults who are from culture or language groups other than English are at a higher risk of obesity and related illnesses. Little is published about early obesity prevention practices (infant feeding and active play) among culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Understanding such cultural trends can inform culturally relevant interventions to address health inequalities across the lifespan. This study aimed to explore healthcare professionals’ perceptions of infant feeding and active play practices among Chinese- and Arabic-speaking mothers/families, and perceptions of their experiences accessing healthcare. **Methods**Participants were healthcare professionals working within Sydney metropolitan area with Arabic- and/or Mandarin-speaking pregnant women and/or women with young children. Recruitment and data collection was conducted from July until September 2018. All interviews were conducted in English following a semi-structed interview protocol. Interviews were audio-recorded with consent, transcribed verbatim, and analysed using inductive thematic analysis.**Results**22 interviews were analysed. Healthcare professionals described the importance of extended family for both communities during the infant’s first year. Newer arrivals were observed to have stronger family influence and followed traditional practices (e.g. confinement). Increased breastfeeding acceptability was perceived, but top-up formula feeding appeared common among Chinese families (often due to low milk supply concerns) and extended exclusive breastfeeding among Arabic mothers was seen to impact appropriate complementary feeding. Health professionals voiced important considerations when giving culturally sensitive advice: flexibility, non-judgemental approach, addressing family’s concerns first, need for in-language resources and explanation of evidenced-base and meaningful rationale for advice.**Discussion**Cultural trends in infant feeding and activity practices were perceived among the Chinese and Arabic- speaking communities in Sydney. These findings highlight the need for culturally relevant interventions to promote healthy infant feeding and activity practices among the Chinese and Arabic communities. Such interventions can address health inequalities for the early prevention of childhood obesity among diverse cultural groups.**Keywords**Healthcare Workers; Cultural Diversity; Infant Nutrition; Primary Prevention |