

Correspondence

The accuracy of Broselow pediatric emergency tape in estimating body weight of pediatric patients

To the Editor

I have read with interest the study by ALSulaibikh et al¹ on the accuracy of Broselow pediatric emergency tape (BPET) in estimating the body weight of pediatric patients. The authors mentioned that even though all the BPET estimated weight significantly correlated to actual weight, the body weight measurements ranging from 10 to 25 Kg were best correlated, and were measured with a high degree of reliability.¹ I presume that the implication of that finding in the clinical settings ought to be cautiously interpreted in the light of the following limitation. With the global pandemic of pediatric obesity, there are increasing concerns on the accuracy of BPET in estimating the weight of obese children. To my knowledge, the prevalence of pediatric overweight/obesity in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia is among the highest in the world (16.9%).² It was not obvious in ALSulaibikh et al's study¹ the exact prevalence of obesity in the studied population. Hence, it would be a puzzling situation in employing BPET to estimate the weight of the critically ill obese Saudi children in the emergency departments who necessitate exact doses of resuscitative drugs and fixed sizes of instruments. I presume that the following 2 options might help unveil that puzzling state. 1) There is a need to develop an adjustment formula that could improve the BPET

weight estimate in obese pediatric patients similar to that achieved in certain pediatric populations.³ 2) The pediatric advanced weight prediction in the emergency room (PAWPER) tape has been found to be statistically superior to BPET in the estimate of the weight of obese children⁴ and, hence, it might be considered a sound alternative to BPET.

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Reply from the Author

No reply was received from the Author.

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