

## MSM Resident Dr. Shepard Presents at Society for Pediatric Urgent Care Meeting at Seattle Children's Hospital



MSM Pediatric Resident **Alejandro Shepard, MD, MPH**, recently made a presentation titled "Torticollis in a Two-Year-Old Patient" at the [Society for Pediatric Urgent Care](#) meeting at Seattle Children's Hospital. You can read his full presentation below.

Whether it's a toy, the battery from a television remote, or liquid nicotine for electronic cigarettes, or prescription and non-prescription opioids, more and more children around the country are facing life-threatening crises because of ingestion of dangerous substances. Dealing with those emergencies was one of the focuses discussed at the third annual meeting of the Society for Pediatric Urgent Care recently in Seattle, WA.

About 150 pediatricians, nurses, advanced nurse-practitioners and urgent-care operators met at Seattle Children's Hospital to share their research and experience in dealing with children's health issues. Dr. Jeffrey Schor, founder of PM Pediatrics, with operations in New York, New Jersey and Maryland, told participants in the group's Leadership Forum, that there are more than 10,000 urgent care practices around the country.

Over the course of the three-day conference, members learned about the latest developments in dealing with broken bones, concussions, burns, allergic reactions, antibiotic prescriptions, ingestion of foreign bodies and dangerous substances, dental emergencies, pain management, suicide screening, seizures, and a variety of other topics. They shared their experiences and discussed the current state of care, training and urgent care center operations.

With more and more states legalizing and decriminalizing marijuana and authorizing use of medical marijuana, members heard about children's accidental ingestion of cannabis and the lack of child-safe packaging for the product. Dr. Suzan Mazor of Seattle Children's Hospital told participants that the opioid epidemic in the U.S. also has resulted in a skyrocketing increase in hospitalizations for opioid poisoning affecting every age group. She pointed out that

synthetic opioids are not always detectable on toxicology screens and urged the doctors to prescribe opioids responsibly, and to talk to patients and their parents about safe use, storage and disposal of painkillers.

Each year, some 17,000 children younger than 15 are treated in emergency departments for choking episodes, and about 150 die. There are 1,500 deaths each year in children who have ingested foreign bodies. Dr. Julie Brown of Seattle Children's outlined some of the diagnostic challenges for pediatricians trying to treat children who have inhaled or ingested foreign bodies, including coins, batteries, toys and magnets.

Urgent care provides unscheduled, after-hours medical treatment for children with acute or chronic illness or injury. It does not replace regular visits to a child's own pediatrician, but does relieve pressure on hospital emergency rooms at a lower cost.

Participants came from 23 states and three foreign nations. Two Irish health care providers working on establishing Dublin's first pediatric urgent care centers attended, as did urgent care representatives from Qatar and Israel.