Prevalence of Waddell's Triad at a Pediatric Level 1 Trauma Center
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Problem:
Given the anatomical differences in children compared to adults, the pediatric injuries from pedestrian motor vehicle collisions would differ from adults, causing suspicion surrounding the predictive accuracy of Waddell's Triad.

Evidence:
Waddell's Triad, first described in 1971 by Waddell and Drucker, involves an injury pattern of head, chest/abdomen, and lower extremities. A review of current literature, plus the findings from this study, found the prevalence of Waddell's Triad in the pediatric population to be low, suggesting that this well known predictive injury pattern should be used primarily in adults.

Strategy:
A thorough head-to-toe trauma assessment is essential to accurately identifying pediatric pedestrian injuries sustained when struck by a vehicle. Knowledge of the mechanism of injury, the child's size and age, as well as the type of automobile involved, will help to predict injury risk (Blank-Reid et al. 2007).

Practice Change:
Educate pediatric emergency care providers to be aware that Waddell's Triad is not as prevalent an injury pattern for children involved in pedestrian vehicle collisions, setting a new precedence for this population.

Evaluation:
Past publications, along with this study's results, demonstrate the low prevalence of Waddell's Triad in the pediatric trauma population.

Results:
A retrospective analysis (7/2002-7/2007), using the Trauma Registry and Medical Records at Children's Medical Center of Dallas, a level 1 Trauma Center, found a low incidence of Waddell's Triad in the motor pedestrian collision population.

Recommendations:
Educate emergency health care providers on the low incidence of Waddell's Triad as a pediatric injury predictor; encourage them to rely on the biomechanics of pediatric pedestrian trauma as the accurate predictor of injury.
Lessons Learned:
In the assessment for risk of injury, pediatric emergency providers have the opportunity to impact standard of care by focusing on the pattern of injury including age and weight of children, preexisting factors and type of vehicle, as opposed to using Waddell's Triad as a predictive tool.