

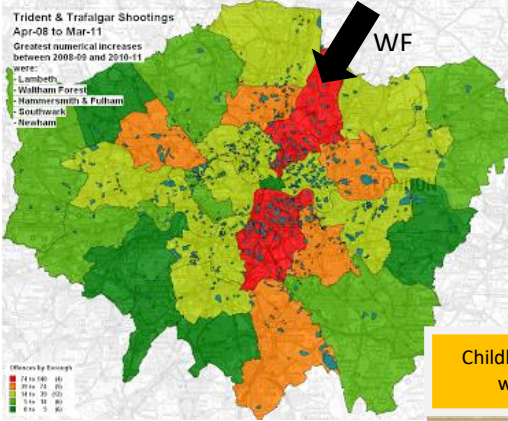
# Paediatric Pearls

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Previous editions are all available at [www.paediatricpearls.co.uk](http://www.paediatricpearls.co.uk)

Part 1 of our safeguarding series on **gangs** with thanks to Laura Hudson, safeguarding adviser at Whipps Cross. There are around 250 recognised gangs in London, involving around 4,500 people. They range from organised criminal networks involved in Class A drugs supply and firearms, to street-based gangs involved in violence and personal robbery. Waltham Forest is the northern most red patch on the map below which shows number of shootings between April 2008 and March 2011. WF and Newham are in the top group. Gun crime has decreased since then but gangs are still a significant safeguarding issue in our EDs.



Identified gang members are made up of mainly young people, aged 14 to 24 years. We have seen even younger children involved in or on the periphery of gangs and attracted to the money, power and apparent status of older peers.

Childline support for young people worried about gangs [here](#).

The conversion table below is for HbA1c units and is from <http://www.diabetes.co.uk/downloads/factsheets/hba1c-and-blood-glucose.pdf>. [www.diabetes.co.uk](http://www.diabetes.co.uk) houses a wealth of information for patients and health professionals.

HbA1c (%)	HbA1c (mmols/mol)	Ave Blood Glucose (mmol/L)
13	119	18 mmol/L
12	108	17 mmol/L
11	97	15 mmol/L
10	86	13 mmol/L
9	75	12 mmol/L
8	64	10 mmol/L
7	53	8 mmol/L
6	42	7 mmol/L
5	31	5 mmol/L

HbA1c refers to glycated haemoglobin, which identifies average plasma glucose concentration.

- For non-diabetics, the usual HbA1c reading is 4 to 5.9%.
- For people with diabetes, an HbA1c level of 6.5% is considered good control, although some people may prefer their numbers to be closer to that of non-diabetics.
- People at greater risk of hypoglycemia may be given a target HbA1c of 7.5%

## Polydactyly



Cause unclear. Anomaly in embryological development, twice as common in children of African heritage

Manage conservatively if tolerated (wide shoes). Surgical excision if mal-aligned/difficulty with shoe wear. Pre-axial polydactyly (extra toe near the big toe) is more likely to be syndromic.

Refer if toe mal-aligned, painful, soft tissue or shoe fitting problems, parental anxiety

## Syndactyly



Failure of apoptosis / segmentation in embryological development

Conservative management. Can be separated (particularly if big and second toe) but will leave a scar

If patient would like to discuss surgery refer to plastic surgeons

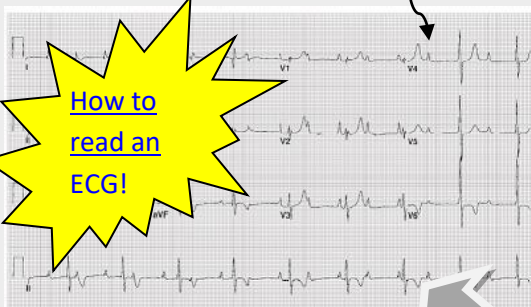
## Syndactyly and Polydactyly

with thanks to Miss Sarah McMahon, orthopaedic reg at RLH. [Click here](#) for Sarah's summary of orthopaedic toes.

More on polydactyly and syndactyly at <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/126025-5-overview#a4>

## Paediatric ECGs

Complete Heart Block – P waves and QRS complexes have no relation to one another:



I have just been on a Hands on Essential Paediatric ECG course, Manchester, UK. Next date is 17<sup>th</sup> March. [Click here for details](#). Basics of ECG understanding, examples of different abnormalities and hands on simulation in the afternoon to learn management techniques including DC shock. Run by a cardiologist. Highly recommended.

CPD opportunities!

## Royal College of Emergency Medicine Safety Alert on Phenytoin Toxicity

- ☞ There is a significant potential for error in emergency situations in which drugs requiring calculation/dilution are required
- ☞ Phenytoin can cause cardiac arrhythmias and arrest if given as a rapid infusion and requires cardiac monitoring. Infusion rates should not exceed 50mg/minute.
- ☞ Intralipid TM should be considered as an antidote to phenytoin toxicity in consultation with poisons centres

The University of Birmingham is offering a free on-line course entitled **Emergency and Urgent Care for Children: a Survival Guide** aimed primarily at advanced healthcare professionals working in the pre-hospital environment, including paramedics, pre-hospital medical teams, GPs and health visitors. CPD certificates available. Register at <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/urgent-care-children>. Topics covered include:

Fever  
Breathing Difficulty  
Head Injury  
Abdominal Pain  
Seizure

Minor injury  
Dehydration  
Rash  
Illness