Author's response to reviews

Title: Convective burn from use of hairdryer for heel warming prior to the heel prick test - a case report

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BMC Paediatrics

Dear Editor

Convective burn from use of hairdryer for heel warming prior to the heel prick test – a case report

I would like to submit the above case study manuscript for publication in the Journal BMC Paediatrics.

This case report is the first to describe a neonate who suffered partial thickness burns as a consequence of a midwife using the mother’s hairdryer to pre-warm the baby’s heel in preparation for administering the heel prick test.

The heel prick test is currently offered to all infants born in the United Kingdom. Pre-warming of the heel is not recommended for routine capillary blood sampling although it is often practiced. Injuries to infants due to heel warming have been noted in the literature but never due to a hairdryer.

This case report aims to emphasise the dangers of heel warming, especially by unstandardised methods and to illustrate that in most circumstances the practice of heel warming is unnecessary. I can confirm that this case study has not previously been published and is not under consideration by any other journal. Written consent for both the article and the use of photographs has been given from the child’s parents.

I hope you agree that this paper would be of interest to the readers of BMC Paediatrics and I very much look forward to receiving your comments.

Yours sincerely
Dr Ashley Shepherd