# JAOA medi-notes

trol families consumed an unrestricted diet. Food records were collected every day at ages 8 and 13 months. Growth was carefully monitored.

The results of the trial showed that between 7 and 13 months, serum cholesterol and non–high-density-lipoprotein cholesterol concentrations did not change significantly in the intervention group but increased substantially in the group with unrestricted diet.

Daily intakes of energy and saturated fat were lower in the intervention than in the control group at 13 months, and intake of polyunsaturated fat was higher.

Growth did not differ between the groups and was as expected for children at this age. Serum cholesterol concentrations fell significantly in parents of intervention-group infants.

The findings indicate that the increases in serum cholesterol and non–high-density lipoprotein cholesterol that occur in infants between the ages of 7 and 13 months can be avoided by individualized diets, with no effect on the children's growth.

Lapinleimu H, Viikari J, Jokinen E, et al: Prospective randomised trial in 1062 infants of diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol. *Lancet* 1995;345:471-476.

# JAOA editorial comments

**Filters from cigarettes may pose a health threat to smokers,** according to a study conducted by researchers at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in New York.

Led by immunologist John Pauly, MD, the researchers implanted in mice microscopic cellulose acetate fibers from six popular cigarette brands. Six months later, the fibers remained intact with their tar coating. The researchers also found microscopic fibers in lung tissue taken from human smokers with pulmonary cancer. Although no direct link was established between the filters and the development of pulmonary cancer in humans in this study, further investigations will likely examine this possibility.

Complete results are published in the January 15 issue of the *Journal of Cancer Research.*

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**Children, adolescents, and older minority women** are more likely to be homicide victims than other segments of the population in the United States. Such was the conclusion of a report compiled by the Population Reference Bureau, a nongovernment agency.

"Homicide in the United States: Who's at Risk," includes data from 50 years of statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Center for Health Statistics.

In 1990, among minority children aged 4 years and younger, the murder rates were 8.9 per 100,000 boys and 8.6 per 100,000 girls. Comparatively, 1950 homicide rates indicated 2.4 homicides per 100,000 children for both sexes in this group.

Statistics compiled for white children also showed an increase during this period: for boys, the