

From the Department of Consumer Affairs

Infants should not sleep on fluffy bedding

Comforters and pillows could pose a health hazard to infants; therefore, parents should avoid placing their infants on top of such bedding. A report by the Consumer Product Safety Commission found that as many as 1800 of 6000 infants who died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) during a 2-year period had been sleeping on fluffy bedding. Researchers theorize that the bedding may have covered the infants' mouths and noses, causing them to die of carbon monoxide poisoning.

The report makes no direct cause and effect connection between such bedding and SIDS. Nonetheless, as a precautionary measure, the commission does advise parents to place healthy infants on firm flat sleeping surfaces, laying the infants on their backs or sides.

In a separate but related study, researchers at the Department of Pediatrics, State University of New York at Buffalo and Children's Hospital of Buffalo, New York, surveyed 149 pediatricians who treat newborns. Of the 121 respondents, 79% agreed with recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) that suggest infants should be placed on their backs or sides for sleeping. The AAP made that recommendation in 1992.

From NIH

Study of AZT effectiveness in treating HIV-infected children halted

Part of a study examining the effectiveness of the drug zidovudine (AZT) as a sole treatment for children infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) has been stopped. Researchers at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases began testing the efficacy of AZT alone; didanosine (ddI) alone; or a combination of AZT and ddI in children infected with the HIV in August 1991. At the time of entry, the 869 children ranged in age from 3 months to 18 years.

The AZT component of the

study ceased after researchers found that children receiving the drug had more rapid disease progression than children in the other two groups in the study. However, testing of the remaining protocols in this study continues.

UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY OF NEW JERSEY SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE CHAIRPERSON DEPARTMENT OF OSTEOSCIENCES

The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey - School of Osteopathic Medicine, New Jersey's University of the Health Sciences, seeks nominations and applications for the position of Chairperson, Department of Osteosciences, at the School of Osteopathic Medicine. This is an exciting opportunity to lead a growing department in a dynamic academic atmosphere. Osteopathic principles and practice are recognized as a vital ingredient of primary care education and practice. Responsibilities will include the administration of undergraduate Osteoscience lectures and laboratories, clinical ambulatory and inpatient programs at multiple locations, and research programs. Candidates must be Osteopathic Physicians with Board Certification in special proficiency in Osteopathic manipulative medicine and extensive experience in the teaching and practice of Osteopathic principles and manipulative techniques. Demonstrated experience as a medical educator with a commitment to the encouragement and support of Osteopathic research is essential.

Forward nominations and/or curriculum vitae to: **R. Michael Gallagher, D.O., Vice Dean, UMDNJ-SOM, One Medical Center Drive, Stratford, NJ 08084 by April 5, 1995.** Minorities and women are encouraged to apply. UMDNJ is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer, m/f/d/v, and a member of the University Health System of New Jersey.

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