

Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

**Clinical and molecular aspects of stress on the developing lungs**

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1. The abnormal expression pattern of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) plays an important role in understanding the altered pulmonary vascular reactivity in lungs of congenital diaphragmatic hernia patients (this thesis).
2. In congenital diaphragmatic hernia, pulmonary vasoconstriction and altered pulmonary vascular muscularisation are determined by upregulated expression of endothelin-1 and the endothelin-A receptor (this thesis).
3. Partial liquid ventilation results in less lung stress compared to conventional ventilation, indicating that partial liquid ventilation may prevent progressive lung injury (this thesis).
4. Exposure of neonatal rats to nitrogen dioxide, an important air pollutant, results in enhanced expression of vascular endothelial growth factor and stress genes, and thus contributes to vascular remodeling in developing lungs (this thesis).
5. Although satisfactory bile drainage can be obtained following Kasai's hepatic portoenterostomy in patients with biliary atresia, the timing of liver transplant is the main determining factor predicting outcome.
6. Developmental biological studies form the scientific basis of pediatric surgery as a clinical specialty.
7. The diagnosis of primary pulmonary hypertension of the newborn is not justified unless a lung biopsy is performed.
8. In patients with anorectal anomalies routine evaluation of associated anomalies is not cost-effective, except for urogenital anomalies.
9. The variable mortality rate in series of patients with congenital diaphragmatic hernia is mainly determined by selection bias instead of real differences in mortality.
10. In Japan the percentage of high school graduates who go to university is approximately 45%, although keen competition so-called "examination hell", to enter university exists. In spite of this "examination hell", universities in Japan are hard to enter but easy to graduate from.
11. In the eyes of foreigners sushi, sukiyaki, and tempura may be typical Japanese dishes but Japanese people do not eat them everyday.