

Characteristics of the Baumann's angle in Hong Kong Chinese children

To the Editor—I refer to the article¹ titled “Characteristics of the Baumann’s angle in Hong Kong Chinese children” by Ko et al (HKMJ 1996;2:363-5). The authors noted that the local mean value of Baumann’s angle was 70.0=B0 with a standard deviation of 5.8=B0. They also commented that “the normal range of the Baumann’s angle was wider in the local population than that quoted in the western literature” when the authors compared their results to a similar study² by Williamson et al.

From the data presented, a wider variation in the Baumann’s angle was noted in the younger age group as shown by the standard deviation. This was more obvious when the samples were divided into two roughly equal groups by age with the P value <0.01 (Table).

	2-5 years	6-13 years	Total
No.	40	65	105
Average angle	70.8=B0	69.5=B0	70.0=B0
Sample variance	48.67	23.98	SD
	6.98	4.90	5.8

Therefore, the question arises of whether this wider variation of Baumann’s angle is due to an ethnic factor or to the difference in age distribution in the samples. Although the age data was well presented in the study by Ko et al, it was not available in Williamson’s paper for comparison. Unfortunately, this question remains unanswered.

KK Leung,
FRCS (Edin), FHKAM (Orthopaedic Surgery)
Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology
Caritas Medical Centre
Shamshuipo, Kowloon, Hong Kong

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2. Williamson DM, Coates CJ, Miller RK, Cole WG. The normal characteristics of the Baumann (Humerocapitellar) angle: an aid in the assessment of supracondylar fractures. J Pediatr Orthop 1992;12:636-9.

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