Relationship of Age and the Body Mass Index with Subcutaneous Adiposity in Adult European and Migrant South Asian Males Resident in Peterborough, England

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ABSTRACT A comparative study of the interrelationships of age and the body mass index (BMI) with subcutaneous adiposity (measured by skinfolds) in adult White European (n = 262) and migrant Indian (n = 39) and Pakistani (n = 100) males residing in Peterborough, East Anglia, revealed significant ethnic differences in mean skinfolds between Europeans and Indians/Pakistanis (South Asians). Age and similar association with all the skinfolds in the three ethnic groups. Multiple regression analyses revealed that for any given age, South Asians have significantly higher mean subscapular, suprailiac, abdomen, chest and midaxillary skinfold but significantly lower mean forearm skinfold compared to Europeans. These significant ethnic differences remained even after controlling for the effect of the BMI.