We completed an audit to review the use of dexamethasone in children with croup.

**Method**
Inpatient notes of 50 children admitted between 2010 and 2011 were reviewed at a district general hospital. To gauge the readmission rate, a comparative notes review was performed for attendances at the Emergency Department of a local tertiary paediatric centre (150 attendances, June–November 2014).

**Results**
Figure 1 shows results at the district general hospital

Half of the children who required readmission had the same croup score on their first admission and their second, implying that readmission was necessary due to lack of clinical improvement. At the tertiary centre, 90% (135) patients received a dose of dexamethasone on their first presentation and 10% (15) children re-attended.

With 1 in 10 patients being readmitted despite one dose of dexamethasone, we conducted a regional survey of paediatricians in our deanery to assess baseline practice for multi-dose dexamethasone. The survey contained a hypothetical case scenario of a child with croup (stridor and chest wall retraction at rest) who received a dose of dexamethasone. At 12 h the patient improved with no symptoms at rest but symptoms on exertion. Respondents were given four management options, as shown in Table 1.

A total of 112 responses were received, 44% from consultants. The results demonstrate a wide variation in practice. 23% of respondents stated that their choice was based on trust guidelines, whereas 77% stated it was personal practice.

**Conclusion**
The high readmission rate, variation in practice and lack of evidence for administering a second dose of dexamethasone in croup suggest this is a topic that would benefit from a research project.

### Abstract G96(P) Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Observe in hospital without another dose of dexamethasone</th>
<th>Administer a 2nd dose of dexamethasone in hospital and observe</th>
<th>Discharge home with a dose of dexamethasone</th>
<th>Discharge home without a dose of dexamethasone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>12 hours after a dose of dexamethasone for croup, a patient has no symptoms at rest but symptoms on exertion. Which of the following would you opt for?</strong></td>
<td>Total = 25 (22%)</td>
<td>Total = 23 (21%)</td>
<td>Total = 37 (33%)</td>
<td>Total = 27 (24%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[\text{G97(P)}\]

**AUDIT OF SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN PRESENTING WITH DOG BITES TO THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT**

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**Aims**
Recently there has been much media coverage of dog attacks on children. NICE guidelines for management of dog bites recommend that inadequate supervision should prompt consideration of child neglect.

Our intention is to reduce the number of unnecessary facial X-rays, and practice will be re-audited one year post-implementation.