Improving Discharge Planning For Children Presenting To The Emergency Department With Wheeze

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Aims To determine the burden and aetiology of traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) presenting to tertiary paediatric emergency departments (PEDs). To determine the number of TBIs that are symptomatic, requiring imaging, re-presenting and requiring admission.

Methods Retrospective analysis of presentations of children 0–16 y to the 3 Paediatric Emergency Departments (PEDs) in a large urban area for 24 months. Diagnoses of head injury, intracranial bleed, skull fracture and those re-attending with the same complaint within 28 days were included. Hospital Symphony Emergency Department Information System (EDIS) and radiology (NIMIS) information systems were interrogated. Demographics, mechanism of injury, CT ordering and discharge destination were recorded. Demographic Data was extracted from the 2016 national census.

Results Head injury was diagnosed in 13,336 of 2,248,860 (5.9%) presentations to PEDs over 24 months. Median (range) age of presentation was 5.3 (0–16) years. The age profile was: Infants, n=1705 (12.8%), preschool age, n=6424 (48.2%) primary school age, n=3673 (27.6%), adolescents 12–16 y, n=1970 (14.8%). In adolescents, males predominated (73%) but gender equal in other age-groups. The rate of presentation is 3.7% per year at preschool age. Number admitted, transferred or reviewed was n=1460 (10.8%) with a neuroimaging rate of 4.4%. The triage category was 4 in 6718 (50%) and the place of accident was known in n=5298 (39.5%). Accidents occurred at home n=3325 (62.7%).

In those with known mechanisms (52%), falls were predominant; n=3315 (47.5%) particularly from a height (n=1925) including from beds (n=298). Rugby alone accounts for a small number, n=229 (3.26%), but n=190 (18.4%) of the adolescent group.

Conclusion Preschool children have the highest incidence of head injury and the majority of injuries follow a fall. Sport accounts for a significant number of injuries in older children. Standardised reporting would improve information on demographics and mechanisms and allow targeted interventions in each age-group.

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Objectives and background Childhood wheeze is a common presentation in the emergency department. The National Review for Asthma Deaths has identified that there are still significant shortcomings in the acute and chronic care of asthma and wheeze in the UK. A ‘Wheeze Clerking Proforma’ (WCP) was introduced in the ED of a busy district general hospital to improve information gathering, acute management and discharge planning, according to recommended standards, with a view to improving overall outcomes. There were immediate improvements in clerking and acute management with the introduction of the WCP, however discharge planning remained unsatisfactory.

To improve discharge planning, the WCP was redesigned to increase emphasis on discharge and to encourage parents to instigate completion of the ‘discharge checklist’. A retrospective case note audit was conducted to determine the success of this approach.

Methods Children aged 1–16 attending with wheeze from 01/05/2017 to 14/05/2017 and 05/06/2017 to 17/06/2017 were identified from a manual search of ED patient records. Information was collected on patient demographics, wheeze-specific information gathering, acute treatment and discharge outcomes.

Results 66 eligible children were identified; 58% were cycled on WCPs. Information gathering for children on WCPs was superior in all domains. All children received appropriate acute treatment.

29 children were discharged, 11 of whom had WCPs. These children were more likely to have inhaler technique checked (45% vs 6%), receive an emergency action plan (36% vs 0%), be advised to see the GP within 48 hours (45% vs 17%) and have appropriate follow-up arranged (18% vs 6%).

Conclusions Placing more emphasis on discharge planning and encouraging parents to engage in this process has improved discharge outcomes in the ED, although there remains room for improvement.