Paediatric Special Interest Group: British Society of Haematology

1189 EXPLORING THE ANXIETIES AND EXPERIENCES OF CHILDREN WITH SICKLE CELL DISEASE DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC

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Background Sickle cell disease (SCD) results in functional hyposplenism and impaired immunity with risk of respiratory infections and pulmonary complications. During the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic, patients with SCD were identified as ‘high risk’ and received shielding advice. Health related anxiety in the general population has been great throughout this unprecedented global health crisis, and this survey was carried out to evaluate how these anxieties have affected a specific vulnerable patient group with SCD.

Objectives This project aimed to gain an understanding of parent’s views and experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic when they have a child with an immunocompromising health condition such as SCD. The secondary aims were to encourage timely hospital presentation by allaying their fears through explaining new infection control set up.

Methods A telephone survey of the local cohort of families with one or more children with a diagnosis of SCD was carried out between April and August 2020 at a district general hospital using a questionnaire entitled ‘COVID-19 - How are you doing and how can we help you?’. 11 questions were asked of one parent from each family and the answers collated and analysed. Additional responses were obtained during the clinic consultations, virtually or in person.

Results 45 families with 54 children (27 male) were successfully contacted and supported during the pandemic. 32 of these families gave responses on behalf of 42 children to all 11 survey questions. The age of patients ranged from 10 to 18 years with 11 having SCD. General population has been great throughout this unprecedented global health crisis, and this survey was carried out to evaluate how these anxieties have affected a specific vulnerable patient group with SCD.

Conclusions The survey indicated the positive role that the community sickle cell nurse specialist played in liaising with the families throughout the pandemic, informing and educating them and attempting to resolve any anxieties or concerns that they had. It further helped to identify any specific queries regarding prescriptions and missed appointments and allowed the community team and the local consultant paediatrician with haematology expertise to provide extra support and information where needed, helping to reduce hospital attendance related anxiety and minimise delays in presentation throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Child Protection Special Interest Group

1190 THE AWARENESS OF ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES FOR PRACTITIONERS IN TRAINING

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Background The term ACES (adverse childhood experiences) was first recognized in 1988 by the Kaiser Permanente study that identified three main areas that related to premature death in adults, abuse, neglect and household challenges. There are gaps in knowledge of practitioners in training.

Objectives To ascertain the levels of knowledge and whether there are gaps in knowledge of practitioners in training.

References

The Lancet