Conclusions

GHP evaluations form the cornerstone of effective working. The need for urgent evaluation of post-pandemic modes of interviewing due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, highlighted the importance of foundational evaluations for common childhood conditions like asthma and epilepsy. Enhanced peer support and establishment of a nursing contact in Malawi to coordinate health technologies are critical.

Limited international travel, with particular focus on digital technologies, demonstrates the potential for remote collaboration. Involving a 2-week observership in Birmingham for Malawi staff compared to a 6-month placement for BWC staff involved in the partnership were interviewed virtually, due to the coronavirus pandemic, in September-October 2020.

Results

The Partnership is highly regarded by QECH and BWC staff with many positive impacts. Tables 1 and 2 demonstrate positive change in practice as a result of partnership interventions.

Evaluation also revealed areas of suboptimal engagement, such as a sense of inequity in the exchange placements which involves a 2-week observership in Birmingham for Malawi staff compared to a 6-12-month placement for BWC staff in Malawi. Lack of a nursing contact in Malawi to co-ordinate nurse placements was also highlighted.

Recommendations included continuing educational courses and refreshers, increasing peer support and establishing a nurse link in Malawi. Future priorities were to establish services for common childhood conditions like asthma and epilepsy and improvements to exchange placements.

The BWC evaluation, which had to be changed to virtual interviews due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, highlighted the need for urgent evaluation of post-pandemic modes of working.

Conclusions

GHP evaluations form the cornerstone of effective partnerships by evidencing successes as well as determining areas for improvements and goal setting. Well-conducted evaluations enable identification of SMART objectives for future actions. While the COVID-19 pandemic has reiterated the concept of health interdependence, it has also shown that GHPs including BWC-Malawi partnership should be agile in tailoring their action plans to suit the post-pandemic world of limited international travel, with particular focus on digital health technologies.

Methods

Evaluation was structured on validated GHP evaluation toolkits. A qualitative method using semi-structured interviews was used and analysis carried out using grounded theory. Six professionals from BWC visited QECH from 9th-13th March 2020 and interviewed 101 staff members. Eighteen BWC staff involved in the partnership were interviewed virtually, due to the coronavirus pandemic, in September-October 2020.

Results

The Partnership is highly regarded by QECH and BWC staff with many positive impacts. Tables 1 and 2 demonstrate positive change in practice as a result of partnership interventions.

The same questionnaire was completed 6 months later to assess the experience of their first registrar post and ask ‘in hindsight’ how prepared they actually were to transition for those certain aspects of the job. We then compared these responses to the same questions posed prior to the transition using the Mann Whitney U-test.

Faced with COVID-19 restrictions we adapted to virtual delivery creating an interactive half day online programme, with the use of breakout rooms, case presentations and question/answer sessions.

Results

The SHO (n=15) and consultant (n=12) pre-course questionnaires identified some similar themes for development, including the management of paediatric and neonatal emergencies and teamwork/prioritisation. However, SHOs initially emphasised further specific clinical scenarios as areas of concern whilst consultants suggested a greater focus should be on managerial and career development aspects.

On the follow up questionnaire (n=7), trainees identified ‘managing junior colleagues’ as the most challenging aspect of their first registrar post with less emphasis on the management of clinical scenarios.

In hindsight, new registrars felt that they were actually better prepared than they had initially thought ‘in general’ (p<0.05) and specifically for ‘managing resuscitations’ and ‘safeguarding scenarios’ (p<0.05). Interestingly, they expressed being less well prepared for ‘managing colleagues’ than they were in practice.
had initially anticipated but this did not reach statistical significance.

Conclusions SHO anxiety during the transition to middle-grade relates to the responsibility of managing emergency situations, but following a 6-month period of ‘on the job’ experience they identified managerial aspects of the role as the biggest challenge, more in line with what consultants had already identified as an important area for development.

Trainees responded positively to this near peer teaching programme with plans in place for this to be an annual event. Future iterations of the course need to be revised to continue to incorporate feedback from all stakeholders.

British Paediatric Neurology Association

1351 UNUSUAL DIFFERENTIAL FOR GENERALISED WEAKNESS IN A 10 MONTH CHILD
Ajeet Pratap Singh, Hugh Johnson, Neha Khanna. Princess Alexandra Hospital Trust
10.1136/archdischild-2021-rcpch.579

Background A ten month old girl was referred to the Emergency department by her primary care physician with complaints of progressive generalised weakness. Parents started noticing significant weakness in both lower limbs with painful cries when pulled to sit and during nappy changes. She was born by IVF pregnancy at 32 weeks gestation and had an uneventful neonatal course. There were no concerns with regards to development and at age of ten months, she was able to Crawl/weight bear/stand prior to these new onset symptoms.

When examined, she was lying supine on a flat bed with noticeably reduced lower limb movements. Detailed neurological evaluation confirmed bilateral lower limb lower motor neuron type flaccid paralysis and absent reflexes. In view of rapid deterioration, Guillain Barre syndrome and transverse myelitis were the top differential diagnosis as she had no obvious sources or signs of infection. The child underwent necessary bloods and imaging of brain and spine as an inpatient. MRI spine revealed a solid extradural mass at level of L1–L3 reported as suspected nerve sheath tumour, likely schwannoma. She was transferred to a tertiary oncology unit where a diagnosis of adrenal neuroblastoma with spinal extension/compression was made in conjunction after biopsy and repeat MRI reports.

Background Neuroblastoma is the most common solid extradural tumor in children with 40% of the cases diagnosed under the age of one year. The adrenal gland is the most common primary site, followed by abdominal, thoracic, cervical and pelvic sympathetic ganglia. Primary tumours, usually in the retro peritoneum are able to invade the spinal canal through the neural foramina, creating a so-called ‘dumbbell’ tumour. The subsequent epidural spinal cord compression, an oncologic emergency, can cause pain, motor or sensory deficits, or loss of bowel and/or bladder control. The subtle and gradual onset of such neurologic symptoms in young children can make diagnosis difficult.

Objectives Not Required (case report)
Methods Not Required (case report)

Results Not Required (case report)

Conclusions Learning/conclusion:
Although not a very rare presentation for retroperitoneal (adrenal) neuroblastoma, but this was definitely a surprising and unexpected finding for a child presenting with predominantly lower limb weakness. On reflection, it could have been disastrous for the child and the family if left unnoticed or misdiagnosed. Every child should have a complete examination irrespective of presentation or magnitude of illness or complaint. All necessary imaging should be performed prior to more invasive investigations.

Child Protection Special Interest Group

1352 MISSING CHILD PROTECTION MEDICALS: A SERVICE EVALUATION OF REFERRALS FOLLOWING STRATEGY MEETINGS FOR PHYSICAL ABUSE
Rebecca Dadk, Indu Anand. Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
10.1136/archdischild-2021-rcpch.580

Background The impact of Covid-19 on child abuse is widely reported. In Birmingham there has been an increase in strategy meetings occurring for children with alleged physical abuse but it is of concern that this has not corresponded to an increase in child protection medical examinations (CPME) occurring in a community healthcare trust.

Objectives To undertake a multi-agency service evaluation to identify the proportion of strategy meetings for physical abuse that led to CPMEs being undertaken, and to understand the reasons for not undertaking CPMEs.

Methods A list of children who had strategy meetings following allegations of physical abuse was obtained for the period 1st to 14th October 2020. Details of CPMEs were obtained from health care records and outcomes of CP enquiries from social care records.

Results There were 23 strategy meetings for physical abuse. 2 children were under 4 years, 14 were 4–11 years and 7 were over 11 years. There were 8 females and 15 males.

18 children (78%) did not have a CPME following the initial strategy discussion.

Social care records showed in 11 cases (48%) after the child/family were spoken to by social care with or without the police, the decision was made that a CP medical was not indicated, mainly because the history was not substantiated or injuries were not seen. This included one 3-year old and four 4-year olds.

Two children (aged 8 and 12) retracted their allegations; no information regarding injuries is recorded.

In 1 case the mother admitted to smacking the 8 year old child, she stated that she was unaware of the law as the family were new to the UK; there is no documentation with regards to injuries. One 15 year old refused to consent for CPME.

Conclusions CPMEs only occurred for 5/23 (22%) of children following their initial allegation of physical abuse. It is of concern that young children may make a disclosure to a ‘safe’ adult such as a teacher but then when they are unable to repeat the allegation to an unfamiliar social worker or police officer that further medical assessment is not sought.

A CPME will not always be offered by paediatricians in cases where there is no visible injury in a verbal child. GMC