BARRIERS TO REPORTING CHILD DENTAL NEGLECT CONCERNS AMONGST GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN GREATER MANCHESTER

Layla Whyatt, Cain Coots, Siobhan Barry, University of Manchester

Background Dental neglect presents a global concern which can lead to serious impairment of a child’s health and development. Appropriate intervention is a shared public challenge reliant on all healthcare professionals, including general practitioners (GPs). Previous literature has highlighted a lack of training amongst GPs surrounding child dental neglect and suggests that there are barriers present to the reporting of concerns.

Objectives To investigate the current awareness of child dental neglect amongst GPs in Greater Manchester and to investigate barriers to the reporting of child dental neglect concerns.

Methods An anonymous, electronic practitioner questionnaire was distributed via email to a sample of General Practitioners in Greater Manchester. Institutional ethics approval was sought and consent was gained from participants. Respondents reported their experience and training in child dental neglect and their management of suspected cases. Results were downloaded into an excel spreadsheet for analysis.

Results Seven GPs completed the pilot questionnaire, all of whom treated NHS patients. Thirty-eight percent of respondents had received formal child protection training at undergraduate level and 100% had completed postgraduate training. Only 25% felt adequately trained in the mechanisms of escalation and referral of a suspected child dental neglect case. There was universal acknowledgement that more training is required for GPs, with 75% believing that this should take place at undergraduate level. All participants were aware of their practice safeguarding lead and were familiar with their practice policy for child protection, however, none knew of the existence of the handbook commissioned by Department of Health, ‘Child protection and the dental team’. Fifty-seven percent of GPs had been suspicious of at least one case of child dental neglect, however, only 75% had recorded their observations in the clinical notes. Further to this, 43% had suspected child dental neglect and not completed an onwards referral. Common barriers to reporting concerns included: lack of knowledge of referral procedures; lack of certainty of the diagnosis; and lack of confidence in their suspicions. Almost 80% of respondents felt that GPs are well situated to identify behaviour and signs of child dental neglect and 86% were prepared to aid in its recognition.

Conclusions Although a lack of awareness surrounding child dental neglect was highlighted, GPs feel that they are well placed to recognise signs and are willing to get involved in its detection. Barriers to the referral of suspected cases are still commonly reported and there is a strong demand for further training and guidance amongst GPs.
The need for a structured pathway for training with end goals was identified. Ideas and experience from other Trusts will be explored and evaluated.

Conclusions

Conclusion These Forums are crucial as a platform to share worries and concerns, especially during these challenging times. It will also help people to share coping strategies and ideas that will aid colleagues to adapt and cope with rapidly changing work environment. The need of the hour is to look out for each other and by communicating and mentoring International Fellows, it would not only boost their morale but also aid in more International Fellows being recruited from overseas due to positive feedback.

We are hoping that this allays mental health issues too.

Paediatric Critical Care Society

1730 JUST IN CASE TRAINING

Petra Carroll, Denise Welsby. Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust

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Background The Trust introduced Just in Case Training (JIC) in 2014 in the ITU areas under the global PediRES-Q research study.

The initiative reinforces traditional annual resuscitation training, delivering refresher and preparatory training at the bed side to help staff become more focused and aware of essential skills and interventions that may be required for individual patients, meeting the learners needs when it is required, promoting a confident and responsive workforce, providing a timely, child-centric approach to the delivery of resuscitation skills at the bed-side where all clinical staff can be engaged and appreciate the end goal of identifying those at risk of deterioration and prevention.

Objectives To improve the recognition and enable early intervention and management of the acutely unwell child in order to prevent deterioration into cardiorespiratory arrest and rapid response in paediatric resuscitation by providing Just in Case training to clinical staff.

Methods In response to the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic, there were opportunities to extend the JIC training, bringing additional expertise, support and reassurance to all clinical areas but especially where Covid 19 patients were identified, increased acuity of patients, staff levels were stretched, the PEWS >9, ward teams, Clinical Site Practitioners (CSP) or parents had identified a high risk of deterioration or collapse. Also, to support staff redeployed from the North Central London Paediatric Network, ward-based training regarding the trust emergency response systems and familiarisation and use of Trust emergency equipment was delivered.

Success led to an extension of the initiative and collaboration with the CSP team and clinical staff, identifying JIC opportunities, including a refresher of the skills of effective bag-valve-mask ventilation, application of defibrillator pads and quality CPR. Reviewing emergency processes such as algorithms and protocols, highlighting situational awareness including bedspace preparation, role allocation and clinical decision-making is supported. Furthermore, expertise within the team encourages the staff to explore clinical conditions of patients, giving context to the disease process including support for modified approaches to resuscitation. Increased visibility in the clinical areas, has resulted in increased requests from staff for this training to develop their confidence, supporting the complex and progressive clinical needs of the child requiring a higher dependency.

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jan 2019–Dec</th>
<th>Jan 2020–Dec</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total 2222 Calls attended by Clinical Emergency Team</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiorespiratory arrests</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory arrests</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unplanned admissions to Critical Care Units</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>168</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of staff trained</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>384</td>
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</table>

Conclusions Aside from the earlier escalation and interventions, resulting in a decrease in 2222 calls overall and cardiorespiratory arrests, the positive impact of this additional bedside teaching has been very well received and praised by the staff in clinical areas, especially those caring for complex, high risk patients at the point of care and in context of the specific disease process.

Association of Paediatric Emergency Medicine

1731 EPIDEMIOLOGY, SEVERITY AND OUTCOMES OF CHILDREN PRESENTING TO EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS ACROSS EUROPE DURING THE SARS-COV-2 PANDEMIC: AN OBSERVATIONAL COHORT STUDY

Ruud Nijman1, Kate Honeyford2, Silvia Bressan3, Luigi Titomarino2, Study group EPISODES study1, 2Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, Section of Paediatric Infectious Diseases, London, UK; 3Imperial College London, Faculty of Medicine, School of Public Health, London, UK; 4University Hospital of Padova, Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Padova, Italy; 5Robert Debré Paediatric Hospital, Paediatric Emergency Department, Paris, France; 6Imperial College London, Section of Paediatrics, London, UK

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Background An unprecedented reduction in paediatric emergency department (PED) attendances has been reported following the introduction of social distancing measures during the first wave of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in the UK. Emerging evidence also suggests changes in the type of acute presentations to urgency and emergency care.

Objectives We aimed to describe the patterns of children presenting to PEDs across Europe during the first wave of the SAS-CoV-2 pandemic, and compare these with historical data, to understand the timeliness of their presentations in relation to the disease severity, and to monitor for emerging disease entities.

Methods The ‘Epidemiology, severity and outcomes of children presenting to emergency departments across Europe during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic’ (EPISODES) - study collected data from 39 PEDs in 18 countries including 6 UK sites. Routine clinical data were extracted from electronic health records for all children aged <16 years from January 2018 – May 2020,