Abstracts

Paediatricians with Expertise in Cardiology Special Interest Group

PATENT DUCTUS ARTERIOSUS: PRESENTATION AND OUTCOMES (SINGLE OPERATOR EXPERIENCE)

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Background Key facts regarding patent ductus arteriosus (PDA):
- Incidence is 1 in 2000 in term infants
- Has female preponderance
- Presents in 60% of preterms (<28wks gestation) and may have medical or surgical treatment
- Spontaneous closure is rare in full-term infants and children

In our District General Hospital (DGH), all the referrals for paediatric echocardiography (from the paediatric unit, the neonatal unit, outpatient clinics, and primary care) to one of the three paediatricians with special interest in cardiology were analysed. Within our cohort we looked at the most common presenting symptoms, age at referral, referral source, and management outcome of those who eventually had patent ductus arteriosus diagnosed on echocardiography.

Objectives To ascertain for paediatric patients eventually diagnosed with PDA with echocardiography, what was the:
- Commonest presentation at referral
- Main age group referred for echocardiography
- Eventual outcome

Methods Sample Period: 01/01/2009 – 02/02/2019
Inclusion Criteria: All paediatric referrals for Echocardiography (single operator)
- Relevant Sample Size: 84
- Data Collection: Retrospective from:
  - Cardiac database
  - Electronic patient management system
  - Clinic letter
  - Referral letters (to single operator and/or tertiary centre)
  - Discharge summaries
Validation: Use of Pro-forma
Exclusion Criteria: Patients who had any cardiac defect (isolated or in combination) on Echo other than PDA
Excel spreadsheet used for data collection and analysis

Results 70% of the patients referred for echocardiography were less than 28 days of age, 18% between 28 days and 1 year old, and the remaining 12% above 1 year old.
- 51% cases were referred from our neonatal unit, 18% from postnatal wards, followed by 12% referrals from primary care physicians. 9.5% cases were incidentally picked up on clerking when patients presented to our DGH with another complaint. The remainder were referred from Paediatric outpatient clinics.
- 64% of patients with PDA were noted to be preterm at birth. Nearly three quarters of patients had continuous machinery murmur when referred. 11% had Trisomy 21 as a reason for referring. 7% were asymptomatic and referred for screening because of family history (Di George or Hypoplastic left heart syndrome). Failure to thrive was the presenting feature in 1%, while 2% presented with cardiac failure.
- 70% PDA were isolated defects.
- 38% PDA self closed, while 42% required intervention (coil or surgical ligation). A further 9% were lost to follow up,1% deceased, with 10% still under regular follow up at the DGH.

Conclusions
- Female preponderance in patients with PDA.
- Most cases of PDA presented with a pathognomonic machinery murmur.
- Some cases were silent, with incidental discovery on echocardiograms.
- Occasional cases beyond neonatal period (during infancy) presented in heart failure or faltering growth.
- Nearly half the cases needed intervention to close the PDA, with most not needing surgical ligation.

Young People’s Health Special Interest Group

TEENUNDATED- IMPROVING UNSCHEDULED CARE OF 14–16 YEAR OLD YOUNG PERSONS ON A GENERAL PAEDIATRIC UNIT

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Background Our District General Hospital increased the upper age limit for paediatric admissions from 14 years to 16 years in 2019-possibly among the last to do so in the United Kingdom.

Objectives
1. To identify the clinical profile of young persons aged 14 years and over admitted to a paediatric ward in a District General Hospital over a 1-year period.
2. To identify training and service provision gaps around care of 14–16 year olds admitted under the paediatric medical team

Methods
1. Clinical features of patients aged 14 years and above admitted under the paediatric medical team between May 2019 and May 2020 were recorded in a pre designed proforma.
2. A survey sent to Health Care Professionals working in the Paediatric inpatient facility was analysed
3. A telephone survey of experience of 17 randomly selected service users was analysed.
4. An educational package consisting of simulation, lectures, videos and a resource pack related to adolescent health was created, disseminated and feedback analysed.

Results
- 93 young persons aged 14–16y were admitted medically over 1 year with an average of 8 admissions per month.
- 27 were male and 66 were female.
- The average length of stay was 2.4 days
• 65 had a medical diagnosis and 28 a psychosocial diagnosis
• Commonest medical diagnosis was acute infections (18 out of 65)
• Commonest psychosocial diagnosis was deliberate self-harm (20 out of 28)
• Logistic issues included managing intoxicated patient or offender on the paediatric ward and interdisciplinary communication
• HCP felt the biggest challenges were gaps in knowledge around management of substance abuse, intentional overdose and mental health presentations.
• They reported interface issues with adult and tertiary services especially when a young person between 14–16 years required Paediatric Intensive Care or specialist advice.
• Everyone welcomed training sessions on mental health presentations, substance abuse and suggested topics such as consent and adolescent gynecology
• We conducted 17 phone interviews, which involved either a parent, or both a parent and an adolescent.
• A prevailing theme was the praise and appreciation they expressed about the services provided on the ward. This included staff expertise and attitude.
• The facilities were frequently highlighted as being excellent
• Respondents also expressed their preference to stay on a children’s ward rather than an adult ward.
• Only a few respondents expressed dissatisfaction with their child’s stay in the paediatric ward.
• Feedback from the training sessions, videos and resource pack has been positive.

Conclusions
• There were around 8 paediatric medical admissions per month in the 14–16 year age group with over two thirds having medical diagnoses and under a third with psychosocial diagnoses
• HCP perceived management of substance abuse and psychological presentations most challenging and reported logistic challenges when seeking tertiary or specialist input for this age group.
• Families were extremely satisfied by staff expertise, staff attitude, ward facilities and expressed a preference to stay on the paediatric rather than adult ward.
• The training package has received positive feedback
• We identified a need for an adolescent lead team and mental health liaison worker on the ward.

Paediatric Clinical Leaders: Service Planning, Provision and Best Practice

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Background Acute general paediatrics is responsible for the care of children (0–18) presenting acutely to hospital, usually through either the emergency department (ED) or following a GP consultation. In the acute setting patients may be looked after in the emergency department, paediatric assessment units, ambulatory or day care facilities, inpatient wards, operating theatres, intensive care units and outpatient clinics. In a teaching hospital setting, general paediatricians may also have a role co-ordinating care for complex children.

In the last five ten years, standards from national and regional bodies govern the care provided to patients by general paediatricians. Services and individual practitioners can be called upon to demonstrate how they meet these standards and evidence the quality of care provided, such as at CQC inspection. Relevant documents, however, may be located in multiple places and are not always easily accessible to staff or adequately monitored as part of service governance.

Objectives
• To derive a practitioner focused service specification based on relevant acute paediatric care standards
• To determine local compliance against standards and identify measures needed to achieve compliance
• To plan a robust, practitioner-led methodology for ensuring ongoing compliance and monitoring

Methods Relevant guidance was identified through a variety of search methods: national bodies’ websites, expert opinion and liaison with Trust managers to identify standards reported to regulators.

Standards were collated and reviewed amalgamating any areas of duplication and removing those not relevant. The final list was thematically analysed into key areas of practice. An expert group consensus methodology was then used to rate the service performance against these standards.

Results 65 standards of care were identified from six key documents. Thematic analysis identified nine main themes and 16 subthemes.

Using a Red, Amber, Green (RAG) rating system to identify the services’ performance against each theme, an action plan was then created, using a plan, do, study, act (PDSA) process to achieve these standards that were then linked to the service governance strategy and to consultant action plans.

It was decided to audit one of the standards with an amber status to assess if it were being met and, if not, why not. There was a 66.6% compliance, monitored across three paediatric wards, and five themes were identified as reasons for it not being met.

Following on from the data collected, further standards not being met will be explored and their Action Plans will continue to be put into place with their progress monitored regularly within departmental governance meetings.

Conclusions The new service specification is used by clinical staff to reflect on practice and outcomes, allowing easy access to relevant standards to guide clinical practice and service development and quality improvement in a strategic and co-ordinated way. The document is a ‘living’ document, accessible to all clinical team members and external stakeholders.

It will aid planning, commissioning and provision of acute paediatric services and provide a framework against which to audit provision and demonstrate improvement. A similar methodology could be used across the UK.