Background Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) is a vasoproliferative disorder which affects eyes of premature infants. Conventional laser photocoagulation and anti-vascular endothelial growth factors (anti-VEGF) like Ranibizumab are used for ROP treatment.

Objectives To compare the efficacy of Intravitreal Ranibizumab (IVR) to laser photocoagulation for treatment of ROP

Methods Very Low Birth Wight (VLBW) infants born at Prince Sultan Military Medical City, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia were enrolled during 7 years period from January 2011 to December 2017. Screening criteria for ROP were infants who were born at gestational age of less than 32 weeks and/or had birth weight of <1500 g or unstable clinical course. From January 2011 till June 2014 the standard treatment was laser photocoagulation. We started IVR treatment for ROP from July 2014. Patients in either group (laser group and IVR group) were candidates for ROP treatment in case they develop type 1 ROP.

Results During study period, 1315 infants were screened for ROP, 183 infants developed ROP (13.9%) and 35 infants out of 183 received treatment. A total of 69 eyes from 35 infants were included in the study and analyzed. Ranibizumab group included 21 infants (42 eyes). Laser group included 27 eyes from 14 infants. It was observed that 36 out of 42 eyes showed regression of ROP in IVR group whereas all the 27 eyes treated with laser showed regression of ROP in laser group (P < 0.09). There was significant difference in recurrence of ROP in both groups with 12 eyes (28.6%) showing recurrence of ROP in IVR group compared to 1 eye (3.7%) in Laser group (P = 0.01). In IVR group, 8 eyes required second dose of IVR and 10 eyes required laser treatment which were significantly higher than laser group wherein no infants required either IVR or laser (P = 0.02 and 0.01 respectively). No significant difference was found in both groups in terms of refractive error, and anisometropia. Squint incidence was significantly higher in laser group (29.6%) versus IVR group (4.8%) (P = 0.01).

Conclusions Overall data suggests that IVR showed decreased rate of ROP regression as compared to laser. Moreover, significant recurrence of ROP was observed after IVR treatment as compared to laser treatment. More extensive and careful follow up are needed to monitor regression and recurrence of ROP after IVR treatment.

Quality Improvement and Patient Safety

Improving Awareness of Staff Wellbeing in a Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Unit

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Background Healthcare staff wellbeing has never been such a priority. The Covid pandemic has impacted our lives personally and professionally.

Objectives To increase awareness of and engagement in wellbeing within a paediatric haematology and oncology unit.

Methods We undertook a number of PDSA wellbeing projects from September 2020. These included:

- A wellbeing email (initially twice weekly) to all departmental and support services staff, including non-clinical staff.
- A ‘Celebrate the Small Things’ board for staff messages.
- A ‘HALT’ (hungry, angry, late and tired) box to encourage breaks and sustenance.
- A Christmas celebration of our staff, based on an online survey; highlighting team and individual strengths.

We undertook an online survey, requesting feedback on the length, content and frequency of wellbeing emails, and requesting further qualitative feedback on the project.

Results Since September 2020, 31 wellbeing emails have been sent out to 75 members of our department, including medical, nursing, support and secretarial staff. Content is varied and includes videos, coaching-type questions, articles and challenges. Themes include civility, gratitude, finding joy, mental health resources, humour, acknowledging and validating our difficult job, and valuing colleagues. As a marker for ‘engagement’, 29 emails have been received back in response.

There have been 27 messages added to our celebration board.

Our Christmas celebration highlighted 27 individuals, and acknowledged the work of the Wellbeing Team. Individuals were sent an email certificate. Comments specific to the wellbeing team included, ‘Thank you for recognising the need and taking time to care for us all’ and ‘I think both the wellbeing emails and promotion of wellbeing has been fantastic. What may seem like a nice little email can have a huge impact not just on people’s wellbeing but has as a knock on effect on their motivation, productivity and general output.’

Eleven staff completed our survey (15% response rate); 72% rated the emails as ‘very’ or ‘extremely’ helpful. All respondents felt the emails were the right length. 63% felt they were the right frequency, with 36% feeling they were too frequent. Comments on the project were overwhelmingly positive; they included ‘simply knowing that there is someone (some people) who care about us and want to make this a more positive environment J also, the content is great!’ and ‘I think it is great to raise the wellbeing agenda, such an important and overlooked area.’