

Distribution of cases and outcome at paediatric inpatient department of a tertiary care hospital

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Abstract

Background: The medical records section in a hospital can be used for the compilation and retention of the medical records; however the derivation of meaningful statistics from the records in a hospital for health care planning and review is lacking especially in our country. Childhood morbidity utilizes a substantial portion of available health care resources in the terms of hospital bed utilization, and the overload in hospital ward remains a major concern in many countries, including India. A possible way to minimize the problem is to analyze the data from medical records to identify the causes and plan the services accordingly. **Objective:** The present study was done to study the distribution of cases and their outcome at paediatrics inpatient department of a tertiary care hospital. **Methods:** The present clinical study was carried out at paediatrics department of our tertiary care hospital. Study duration was from Jan 2014 to Dec 2014. Total of 2895 patients admitted in the paediatric ward during the study period were analyzed. Age and sex distribution of the patients, distribution of cases in study group and the outcome in the form of improvement, mortality, recovery or discharge against medical advice was described. **Results:** Most of the patients were between 5 to 12 years of age. The average age of study group was 5.53 years. There was a slight predominance of males with 52 percent patients being males. Enteric fever was the commonest diagnosis contributing 421 cases followed by 335 cases contributed by viral fever. Outcome was good with 90.12% cases being discharged with complete recovery and 8.1% showing improvement. The proportion of patients who got discharge against medical advice was 1.1%. The mortality in our study population during the study period was 0.7%.


Keywords: Viral Fever, Enteric fever, paediatrics inpatient department.

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INTRODUCTION

The medical records section in a hospital can be used for the compilation and retention of the medical records; however the derivation of meaningful statistics from the records in a hospital for health care planning and review is lacking especially in our country¹. Childhood morbidity utilizes a substantial portion of available health care resources in the terms of hospital bed utilization, and the

overload in hospital ward remains a major concern in many countries, including India. A possible way to minimize the problem is to analyze the data from medical records to identify the causes and plan the services accordingly². The present study was done to study the distribution of cases and their outcome at paediatrics inpatient department of a tertiary care hospital.

METHODS

The present clinical study was carried out at paediatrics department of our tertiary care hospital. Study duration was from Jan 2014 to Dec 2014. Total of 2895 patients admitted in the paediatric ward during the study period were analyzed. Age and sex distribution of the patients, distribution of cases in study group and the outcome in the form of improvement, mortality, recovery or discharge against medical advice was described.

RESULTS

Table 1: Age Distribution of Cases

Age (years)	Number of patients	Percentage
<1	92	3.2
1 to <2 years	62	2.1
2 to <5 years	1206	41.7
5 to <12 years	1358	46.9
12 years and above	177	6.1
Total	2895	100

Table 2: Sex Distribution of Cases

Sex	Number of patients	Percentage
Male	1505	52
Female	1390	48
Total	2895	100

Table 3: Distribution of Cases

	Enteric Fever	421
1	Enteric Fever	421
2	Viral Fever	335
3	Gastroenteritis/Enterocolitis	321
4	Malaria	286
5	Pneumonia	240
6	Bronchitis	194
7	P Vivax Malaria	82
8	Lower Respiratory Tract Infection	72
9	Febrile Illness	70
10	Febrile Convulsions	64
11	Epilepsy	60
12	Dehydration	50
13	Others	700
	Total	2895

Table 4: Distribution of outcome of Cases

Outcome	Number of patients	Percentage
Recovered	2609	90.12
Improved	234	8.08
Discharge against Medical Advice	31	1.07
Mortality	21	0.72
Total	2895	100

DISCUSSION

In our study most of the patients were between 5 to 12 years of age. The average age of study group was 5.53 years. There was a slight predominance of males with 52 percent patients being males. Study by Singhi³ also

observed a comparatively higher rate of admission by male children in tertiary care institute as well as in the community hospital. This could be due to the preferential care given to male child in the society along with the biological vulnerability of male children to infection. Enteric fever was the commonest diagnosis contributing 421 cases followed by 335 cases contributed by viral fever. However, other researchers^{3,4,5} have reported diarrheal disease as the most common morbidity in inpatient department, followed by the respiratory tract infection. A country needs to have sound epidemiological information for the prioritization, planning and implementation of the public health care system effectively. Morbidity data from inpatient department reflects the causes of major illnesses and the care-seeking behaviour of the community. Understanding of hospital burden due to the various childhood illnesses may contribute towards a more effective approach in designing of appropriate services. This information also provides the basis for patient care in a hospital². The present study has attempted to describe the distribution of cases and their outcome at paediatrics inpatient department of a tertiary care hospital.

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