



PROFILE OF PATIENTS WITH PAEDIATRIC EMERGENCIES AT TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL– A RETROSPECTIVE SURVEY.

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To estimate the prevalence of patients with Paediatric Emergencies attended at emergency department. **Methods:** A retrospective survey design was used to obtain data on prevalence of patients with Paediatric Emergencies attended at emergency department. **Results:** Descriptive analysis was done to define demographic characteristics, monthly admission rates and diagnoses. A total of 2003 patients were seen and admitted after initial evaluation during the study period. The maximum number of patients (42%) was seen in the monsoon month of July and August. About half of the patients were infants and preschoolers. Viral Fever (14.6%) and Dengue fever (9.1%) were the most common diagnosis. Respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses were the two commonest pediatric emergencies. The common reasons for attending the emergency department were neurological emergencies (23%) and respiratory illnesses (20%). Six illnesses, i.e. viral fever, dengue fever, febrile seizures, pneumonia, seizures and accidents comprised nearly half of all the emergency visits. Viral fever and dengue fever showed a distinct seasonal trend. We conclude that demographic and diagnostic data regarding admissions to the Emergency Unit can be utilized to develop new strategies for patient care.

KEYWORDS : Profile, Pediatric emergencies, Patients.

BACKGROUND

Each year an increasing number of critically ill children present to emergency departments (EDs) of tertiary-care hospitals of both developing and developed countries.¹

The accidents and infections which cause the majority of paediatric emergencies are characteristically sudden in onset and often complicated by rapid deterioration. Paediatric emergencies require prompt attention to resuscitation and anticipation of impending respiratory and circulatory failure while determining the underlying cause. Many of the deaths could be prevented if very sick children were identified and appropriate treatment started immediately upon their arrival at the health facility.²

This study will help to plan the staff training and triage and also for the efficient resource utilization in the Emergency Department in a developing country such as India. It can be utilized to develop new strategies for patient care and to reorganize education programs for health professionals.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A study to assess the profile of patients with paediatric emergencies attended Emergency Department of tertiary care Hospital at Ernakulam District. A Retrospective Survey.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To estimate the prevalence of patients with Paediatric Emergencies attended at emergency department.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

• PROFILE

Profile refers to a set of data exhibiting significant features of pediatric emergencies.

• PATIENTS

Patients refer to children between births to 16 years of age admitted in emergency department with pediatric emergencies.

• PEDIATRIC EMERGENCIES

Paediatric Emergencies refers to children diagnosed with all acute illness and injuries attended in emergency department.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Approach : Quantitative approach

Research Design : Retrospective survey design

Setting of the study : Emergency Department of Tertiary Care Hospital

Population : Profile of Children with clinical emergencies.

Sample : Records of Children with clinical emergencies

Sampling technique : Total enumerative sampling

Inclusion criteria : Records of all cases of children with acute illness and injuries reported in Emergency Department of Tertiary Care Hospital over a period of Six months from June 2016 to November 2016.

RESULTS:

Descriptive analysis was done to define demographic characteristics, monthly admission rates and diagnoses. A total of 2003 patients were seen and admitted after initial evaluation during the study period. The maximum number of patients (42%) was seen in the monsoon month of July and August. About half of the patients were infants and preschoolers. Viral Fever (14.6%) and Dengue fever (9.1%) were the most common diagnosis. Respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses were the two commonest pediatric emergencies. The common reasons for attending the emergency department were neurological emergencies (23%) and respiratory illnesses (20%). Six illnesses, i.e. viral fever, dengue fever, febrile seizures, pneumonia, seizures and accidents comprised nearly half of all the emergency visits. Viral fever and dengue fever showed a distinct seasonal trend.

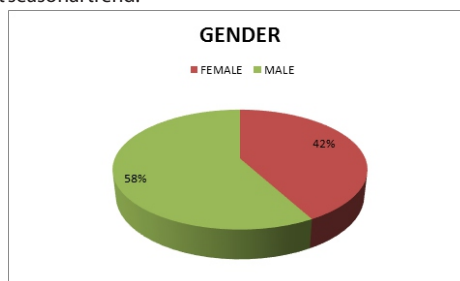


Figure 1: Distribution of patients with pediatric emergencies according to Gender (n=2003)

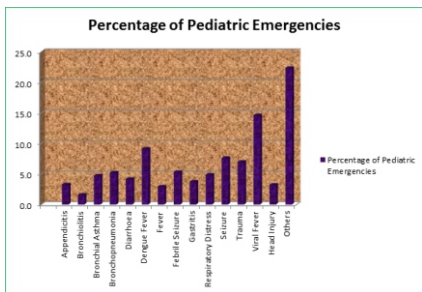


Figure 2: Percentage of patients with Pediatric emergencies over a period of six months(n=2003)

CONCLUSION

Our data implies that planning of staff training and triage and efficient resource utilization in the emergency department in a developing country such as ours should take into consideration of the seasonal trends, and the most common emergencies like neurological and respiratory illnesses as priorities. We conclude that demographic and diagnostic data regarding admissions to the Emergency Unit can be utilized to develop new strategies for patient care.

8. REFERENCES

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