

00392 Neonatal Presentations to the Paediatric Emergency Department (PED) in Singapore

Lim Jia Mei Vanessa, Sashikumar Ganapathy, Low Yi Mei, Yeo Yong Jie Edwin, Chew Yi Rong
KK Women's & Children's Hospital

Aims: Neonatal presentations to the PED have risen globally in developed countries, raising concerns as the PED is a highly infectious area.

The study aims to characterize these visits, analyse the main illnesses and establish associations between the neonates' demographics and the severity of their illnesses.

Methodology: A retrospective analysis of 1200 neonates (aged <28 days) presenting to the KKH PED over 7 months (September 2016 to March 2017) was performed. Associations between the clinical and demographic data of the patient's PED and inpatient admissions were analysed.

Result: 102196 children presented to the PED from September 2016 to March 2017 and 1.2% were neonates.

These neonates were more likely to be of term gestation (87.2%), male (51.7%), less than 15 days old (79.4%) and have an eutocic delivery (74.7%). The racial distribution of Chinese, Malay, Indian and other races was 53.7%, 26.4%, 10.4% and 9.5% respectively. Most (94.0%) had a length of stay of less than 4 hours in the PED.

The top presenting complaints were jaundice (66.6%), fever (17.4%), vomiting (5.9%), nasal congestion (5.3%) and cough (4.6%). The top two admitting and eventual inpatient diagnosis were neonatal jaundice (66.8%; 67.5%) and neonatal pyrexia (14.6%; 19.6%) respectively.

57.8% of neonates were admitted. 98.6% were to the general ward, 1.2% to the High Dependency and 0.3% to the ICU. Out of those admitted, majority were of term gestation (86.6%), less than 15 days old (81.1%), had a birthweight of more than 2500 grams (77.6%), had a referral (50.3%) and had no re-attendance within 72 hours (97.0%).

Conclusion: More robust infrastructure for community paediatrics and outpatient management for non serious conditions along with better education of caregivers is needed to decrease the exposure of neonates to the infective environment of the PED.