
*POSTER MEDICAL
SECTION*

PM-01

COMBINED FACTOR V AND FACTOR VIII DEFICIENCY: A CASE REPORT

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INTRODUCTION :

Combined factor V and factor VIII deficiency is a rare bleeding disorder due to autosomal recessive inheritance. Until now less than 150 cases reported worldwide. It is characterized by mild to moderate bleeding disorder and usually is asymptomatic. However, the risk of excessive bleeding following surgery, abortion and deliveries had been described. It should be suspected when both activated partial thromboplastin time and prothrombin time are persistently prolonged. Factor V and factor VIII levels ranges between 5 and 30 % in those reported cases.

CASE REPORT :

Here we report a patient who presented with cephalhaematoma at birth and found to have persistent abnormal coagulation screening tests and finally diagnosed as combined factor V and VIII deficiency. His elder brother also was suspected to have similar congenital deficiency; however he is asymptomatic since birth.

CONCLUSION :

Recognizing potential haemostatic defect in cephalhaematoma babies is an important step for early diagnosis and management of congenital bleeding disorder.

PM-02

MEDIASTINAL MASSES – ENTITIES OF SIGNIFICANT DIAGNOSTIC CHALLENGE

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PURPOSE :

Mediastinal tumours are uncommon. A significant diagnostic dilemma is encountered when faced with small biopsy samples from such tumours due to their heterogeneous nature. We aim to explore a series of such cases in order to learn more regarding the various characteristics of the tumours and consolidate our experience for future benefit.

METHODS :

Mediastinal tumour cases were collected from the files of the pathology department, Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia. The patient's demographic characteristics were reviewed. The cases were then analysed according to clinicopathological and radiological characteristics.

RESULTS :

A total of 6 cases were retrieved. Five were small biopsies; one case is an excised specimen. The patients are all males, with age ranging from 10 to 61 years old. Shortness of breath and cough is the most common clinical presentation. Radiological investigation show cystic changes in 4 of 6 cases and infiltration into the adjacent structures in all cases. Histopathological examination was diagnostic in 3 cases. The rest of the cases pose a significant diagnostic challenge where only a differential diagnosis or suggestion was offered on a limited tissue biopsy.

CONCLUSION :

Mediastinal masses are uncommon entities and pose a significant diagnostic challenge to the managing team. A concerted effort among all the disciplines involved is recommended.

PM-03

WRITING ERRORS IN PRESCRIBING MEDICATION AMONG MEDICAL OFFICERS

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PURPOSE :

There is no global standard for medical prescription and every country has its own standard regulation for the minimum information required for a prescription. Malaysia has no specific prescribing guidelines other than the out-dated circulars. Errors in prescribing may lead to ineffective and unsafe treatment, exacerbation or prolongation of illness, distress and harm to the patients. The purpose of this study is to identify writing errors by medical officers in medical prescriptions.

METHODS :

This retrospective study reviewed medical prescriptions by medical officers in December 2004 in Pasir Mas Hospital. We selected 335 from 2608 medical prescriptions by using proportionate stratified sampling according to the location. We excluded prescriptions by visiting specialists and medical assistants. We also interviewed all the involved medical officers regarding prescription training and working experience. Writing errors included in this study were errors in patients' information, illegibility of hand-writing, not using capitalization, improper alterations and corrections, usage of abbreviation, not writing route of administration and spelling mistakes.

RESULTS :

The prevalence of more than 3 errors in a single prescription was 44.5% (95% CI 39.1-49.8). The three major prescription errors were capitalization error (94.9%), unit abbreviation error (94%) and incomplete patients' data (63.9%). The prescription error was significantly more common among inpatients than outpatients ($p < 0.001$). There was a significant association between the number of prescription errors and the doctors' working experience ($p = 0.008$).

CONCLUSION :

Writing errors in prescribing medication was common among medical officers working in Pasir Mas Hospital. These errors may lead to misinterpretation and miscommunication of prescription and are avoidable if proper training is given to the medical officers. Further studies are needed to include errors in prescribing decision and investigate factors that contribute the errors such as work load and speciality.

PM-04

QUALITY OF LIFE OF EPILEPSY PATIENTS IN UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA HOSPITAL (HUSM)

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PURPOSE :

To study the QOL of patients with epilepsy and its association with socio-demographic characteristics and clinical aspects of epilepsy.

METHOD :

This cross sectional study of 65 adults epilepsy who attended neurology clinic of HUSM was conducted in October-December 2005. The inclusion criteria were diagnosed as epilepsy for a minimum of one year, seizure-free for the previous 24 hours and agreed to participate in the study. We excluded those with psychotic disorder and had brain surgery during the past year. Guided interview was conducted using the Malay translated version of Quality of Life in Epilepsy Scale-31 (QOLIE-31). It has 7 subscales: seizure worry, overall quality of life, emotional well being, energy/fatigue, cognitive, medication effects and social function.

RESULT :

The mean (SD) age of subjects was 32.4 (11.5) years with 64.5% female, 56.9% single, 40% married, 43.1% unemployed, 23.1% had lower education certificate (PMR) and the mean (SD) monthly household income was RM1122.3 (952.5). The mean (SD) age of onset of epilepsy was 19.0 (14.8) years, 75.4% had generalized type of seizure, 52.3% had been seizure free in the past four weeks and the mean (SD) duration of epilepsy was 13.3 (8.3) years. The mean (SD) of total score of QOLIE-31 was 69.7(15.5). The highest mean (SD) score was the medication effects 87.2(20.2) and the lowest mean score was seizure worry subscale 51.5 (22.8) ($p<0.001$). Educational level ($p=0.044$), age of onset ($p=0.049$) and frequency of seizure ($p=0.028$) were significantly associated with QOL.

CONCLUSIONS :

Worrying about seizure had major effect, while AED had least influence on QOL. Those with tertiary education, had epilepsy since the age 10-19 years old and those who had at least an attack in last month had poorer QOL.

PM-05

HODGKIN LYMPHOMA OF STERNUM: A RARE OCCURRENCE.

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INTRODUCTION :

Primary bone Hodgkin lymphoma is a rare malignancy. Hodgkin lymphoma affecting the sternal bone as a primary disease is even rarer. Its incidence is unknown. A case of primary sternal Hodgkin disease with its radiological appearances is illustrated.

CASE REPORT :

An 18-year-old man presented with six month history of progressive anterior chest wall swelling associated with recurrent chronic cough and significant loss of weight. He had a painless smooth bony hard mass attached to the sternum and right supraclavicular lymphadenopathy. Chest radiographs and computed tomography scan showed anterior chest wall and anterior mediastinal soft tissue mass with destruction of the sternum. Histology examination of the mass and lymph node showed typical appearance of Hodgkin disease. He is currently on chemotherapy treatment.

CONCLUSION :

Primary sternal Hodgkin disease is very rare. Only four cases were found reported in journals from 1934 until 2005. Its radiological appearances have wide range of more common differential diagnosis including osteosarcoma, osteomyelitis, eosinophilic granuloma and multiple myeloma. Therefore, it is a challenge for radiologists to make a correct radiological diagnosis in view of correct management for the better of patients.

Keywords: Hodgkin disease, bone lymphoma, sternum, anterior chest wall mass.

PM-06

RIGHT INTERNAL JUGULAR PHLEBECTASIA

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INTRODUCTION :

Internal jugular phlebectasia is a rare cause for neck swelling. Some of previous report suggested that this condition is often ignored or misdiagnosed. It is an abnormal fusiform or saccular dilatation of the internal jugular vein and it usually present with a swelling in upon straining.

CASE REPORT :

A 9 years old Malay girl presented with intermitent painless right neck swelling for 3 years, which is prominent during crying, coughing or straining. No compression symptoms or other associated symptoms. No significant past medical problem or history of trauma. On examination, right neck swelling underneath the sternocleidomastoid muscle, measuring 5x3 cm. Only visible when patient strains. soft, non tender, fluctuate, less mobile. Overlying skin is normal. Not moves on swallowing and protruding tongue. Ultrasound revealed a dilatation and significantly increased in size of the right internal jugular vein compared to the left side upon performing vasalva manouvre. It also shown turbulent flow on colour doppler. No abnormal filing defect or thrombus seen within the right internal jugular vein. The nature of the lesion explained to the grandmother and not keen for any intervention. Currently she is under follow up.

CONCLUSION :

Jugular phlebectasia is a rare condition, which is appeared during straining. Only three different lesion which is enlarge upon performing vasalva manorvre such as Venous Aneurysm, Laryngocele and Superior Mediastinal tumor. A Non-invasive diagnosis of jugular phlebectasia can be made using Doppler ultrasound, Contrast enhanced CT scan, CT Angiography and MR Venography.

PM-07

IMMATURE TERATOMA

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INTRODUCTION :

Immature teratoma of the ovary is a rare lesion in comparison with other ovarian cancers. The reported incidence is under 1% of ovarian teratomas and usually presents in the first 2 decades of life.

CASE REPORT :

A 13 year old Malay girl presented with abdominal mass and abdominal pain for 6 months associated with per vaginal bleed for 1 month prior to admission. On examination she was anaemic with haemoglobin of 6 g/dl. A vague abdominal mass is palpable in the left iliac fossa and vaginal examination revealed a friable growth at the vaginal orifice. CT scan abdomen performed, revealed enlarged uterus with hydrometrocolpos. Presence of two large adnexal masses bilaterally with the right is 7.7cm x 6.1cm, left is larger measuring 17 cm (width) X 9.2 cm (cc) X 8.0 cm (AP). Laparotomy performed, evacuation of the blood and removal of tumor performed. Histopathology report suggestive of immature teratoma grade 3. However patient developed progressive recurrence of the tumor and presented again after 2 weeks with progressive abdominal distension and hydronephrosis. She was planned for chemotherapy, before receiving chemotherapy, her condition deteriorating and complicated by renal failure, and sepsis and circum to death after 3 weeks of second presentation.

CONCLUSION:

Ultrasound appearances of immature teratoma are nonspecific, typically heterogeneous, with partially solid lesions and scattered calcifications. In CT and MRI, immature teratoma characteristically has a large, irregular solid component containing coarse calcifications with small foci of fat. It may demonstrate internal necrosis or hemorrhage. These tumors grow rapidly and frequently demonstrate perforation of the capsule.

PM-08

PARENTS' KNOWLEDGE REGARDING CARE OF THEIR PREMATURE BABY AT THE HOSPITAL UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

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PURPOSE :

The aim of this study is to explore the level of parents' knowledge regarding care of their premature baby at the Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia.

METHODOLOGY :

This is a cross-sectional study conducted for a period of three months at the Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia, Kelantan. Sixty respondents fulfilling the study criteria were recruited. Respondent's level of knowledge was measured using questionnaire, which was adapted and composed from the High Risk Perinatal Home Care Manual using Likert scale. Statistical analyses performed were descriptive, independent t-test and ANOVA test.

RESULTS :

Results indicated that the knowledge of respondents regarding the care of premature baby was not very satisfactory. The respondent's knowledge level regarding the causes for premature baby (12.4%), the importance of breast milk for premature baby (12.4%) and providing proper health care for preemies (17.3%). A part from that 16.1% respondent's valued the issue of bonding during the hospitalization of their premature baby and 34.4% knew that immunization is very important for their premature baby. The respondents (7.4%) had knowledge about the physical developments of their premature baby and this result was significant when tested with ANOVA test ($p= 0.045$).

CONCLUSION :

The available data showed that many parents' lacked knowledge regarding care of premature baby. Therefore it is very important for them to seek and update this information from the health professionals and the mass media. The findings from this study also provided more room for improvement among health professionals involved to address areas of less knowledge among parents' in the future.

PM-09

ORAL HYPOGLYCAEMIC AGENTS ADHERENCE AMONG TYPE 2 DIABETES MELLITUS PATIENTS IN DIABETES CENTRE HOSPITAL UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

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PURPOSES :

To determine the prevalence of oral hypoglycaemic agents (OHAs) adherence and assess the relationship of OHAs adherence to the complexity of OHAs regimens among the Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (DM) patients in Diabetes Centre Hospital University Sains Malaysia (HUSM).

METHOD :

A cross-sectional was conducted involving 100 patients with Type 2 DM who attended Diabetes Centre HUSM. The validated Morisky scale with reliability coefficient of 94% and a modified version of Health Belief Model Scale with reliability alpha value of 0.692 were used. Statistical Package for the Social Science for Windows (SPSS, version 11.5) software was used to analyze the collected data.

RESULT :

Result from the study demonstrates that 74% of respondents adhered to their OHAs. Majority of the respondents in this study have positive beliefs about diabetes. Perceived benefits and barrier in taking OHAs among the respondents in the study were significantly associated with OHAs adherence. Respondents (71.6%) who had high perceived benefits of taking their medications will most likely adhere to their OHAs. Meanwhile, OHAs adherence was inversely associated with perceived barriers of taking OHAs. The aspects of complexity of medication regimens, perceived susceptibility to diabetes complications and perceived severity of disease shows no relationship with OHAs adherence in the study.

CONCLUSION :

The issue of cost-effective therapy is directly related to patients' medication adherence. Physicians, pharmacists, nurses and other healthcare providers need to establish methods, techniques, procedures or guidelines to challenge and change the false diabetes health beliefs, and overcome the obstacles which interfere with patients in taking their OHAs.

PM-10

WHOLE BLOOD PLATELET AGGREGATION TEST USING IMPEDANCE METHOD IN COAGULATION LABORATORY, HAEMATOLOGY DEPARTMENT, HOSPITAL UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

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PURPOSE :

Traditionally platelet aggregation has been studied extensively by optical methods using platelet rich plasma (PRP) and turbidometric devices. Although of proven diagnostic value, the method has a few limitations. The innovation of electronic aggregation by impedance method in whole blood (WB) circumvents had been a better alternative. The purpose of this study is to establish the method and reference range for a few agonists and ATP released using Chrono-Log Lumi-aggregometer protocol.

METHODS :

Blood was obtained from apparently healthy volunteers from blood donors and laboratory staff, who had not taken any anti-platelet drugs for at least 2 weeks. WB platelet aggregation was performed in citrated blood using Chrono-Log Model 560CA (Chrono-Log Corporation).

RESULTS :

Thirty-seven normal donors were included in this study from year 2003 to 2006. The agonists used for platelet aggregation were ADP, collagen, ristocetin, arachidonic acid (AA) and ATP released was measured after boosting with AA and thrombin. The results of platelet aggregation study were analyzed individually with their separate agonists and doses. All the findings were compared with the available published data.

CONCLUSION :

WB platelet aggregation using impedance method is suitable for routine screening of platelet function abnormalities. It is recommended especially to paediatric patients in view of less volume of blood is required for the test.

PM-11

PEDIATRICS INTESTINAL PSEUDO-OBSTRUCTION (IPO): A REPORT OF 3 CASES WITH GANGLIONIC BOWEL

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INTRODUCTION :

Intestinal pseudo-obstruction is characterized by mechanical obstruction due to reduce or absent of slow waves production or contraction of the intestine. It is classified into neuropathic, myopathic and idiopathic types. The neuropathic type has been classified into three by Meier-Ruge and Longo-Bauer's classification into Hirschsprung's Disease, Hypoganglionosis, and Intestinal Neuronal Dysplasia. In our institution, Hirschsprung's Disease is the commonest clinical diagnosis. The other entities are very rare. We aim to analyse these cases in terms of histopathological features in order to further understand the entities.

CASE REPORT :

We presented 3 pediatric cases with similar history of chronic constipation and abdominal distension, age between newborn to 4 year old child. 2 of them are female. Rectal biopsy was done in all the cases. The histological examination of the resected specimens is available to identify the specific etiology in each case.

CONCLUSION :

Pediatric Intestinal pseudo-obstruction of causes other than Hirschsprung's disease is rare. It is important to classify the etiology for further treatment and prognosis.

PM-12

NEED FOR CLINICAL SKILLS LAB TRAINING AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES IN SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, USM

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INTRODUCTION :

The curriculum of School of Medical Sciences for undergraduate medical education primarily follows a PBL and community based medical education curriculum. Analysis over the year has suggested that there is a lack of integration between knowledge, skills and attitude due to underutilization of skills lab facilities, though available. Ideal PBL environment would demand learning task cycle comprising of PBL, skills lab and self-directed learning. School of Medical Sciences, USM has been blessed with a well-equipped clinical skills centre with some integrated skills training program being run on the basis of see one do one. A very good lay out based on organ system block has been created. What we need now is a skills training curriculum integrated with PBL curriculum at undergraduate level and vision for postgraduate skills training program for future specialized training in medical education. The aim of this study is to highlight the present status of Clinical Skills Centre in School of Medical Sciences and as an effective prospect of Clinical Skills curriculum integrated with PBL.

CASE REPORT :

Present status of clinical skill centre with ideal PBL integrated skills training program has been analyzed and recommendations for future undergraduate and postgraduate medical education has been suggested in a poster presentation. Need for utilizing standardized patient in skills lab setting has also been pointed out. All available resources in terms of venue, layout, faculty development and clinical skills training program has been highlighted in this poster.

CONCLUSION :

Even though skills lab is an expensive facility established in SMS, USM an adequate utilization of clinical skills centre under a well-defined curriculum integrated with PBL is essential for informal transferable learning environment.

PM-13

***BODY WEIGHT PERCEPTION AND WEIGHT REDUCTION PRACTICE
AMONG OBESE VILLAGERS IN KAMPUNG SABAK***

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PURPOSE :

The importance of body weight reduction had been shown to help in reducing the risk of developing many chronic diseases. However, weight reduction needs self-motivation and commitment from the subject. This study is to determine the practice of weight reduction and compare the perception of pre-obese and obese subjects on their body image and health-related problem.

METHOD :

A random sampling based on house mapping was done. Adult more than 18 years old from selected houses were weighed and measured their height. Their body mass index was calculated. A total of 121 subjects who had BMI of more than 23 kg/m² were identified. They were interviewed based on a set of questionnaire.

RESULTS :

There were 60 pre-obese subjects (49.6%) and 61 obese subjects (50.4%). Majority of the pre-obese subjects satisfied with their body image (53.3%) but majority of the obese subjects did not (57.4%). However there is no significant difference between the two groups on body image perception. There were more obese subjects who think that obesity is a health problem compared to the pre-obese groups ($p=0.04$). Majority of subjects from the groups perceived no disturbance in their daily routine due to their body weight. There were more obese subjects who tried to reduce weight compared to the pre-obese subjects ($p<0.001$). Most of them (50%) feel there is no importance to reduce weight.

CONCLUSION :

These surveys showed that majority of pre-obese subjects satisfied with their body image and majority perceived that body weight does not disturb daily activity. Thus, these findings suggest that perception of body weight influence the practice of trying to reduce weight.

PM-14

ANALYSIS ON PERFORMANCE OF OBSERVATION WARD IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT, HOSPITAL UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA, KUBANG KERIAN, KELANTAN

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PURPOSE :

Observation ward has been proven to be effective and essential in providing emergency services especially for non-paediatric patients. However, minimal evidence was found regarding the role of observation ward in treating paediatric patients. The aim of this study is to determine the demographic data of patients managed in Emergency Department Observation Ward (EDOW) Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia (HUSM) in related to the volume and characteristics of patients and in specific to determine the efficacy of EDOW HUSM in managing paediatric patients as compared to non-paediatric patients.

METHOD :

A retrospective, comparative study was conducted involving available medical data of 124 paediatric and 124 non-paediatric patients admitted to the EDOW from January 2004 until completed the targeted sample size. The study used efficacy as the clinical indicator, those are the percentage of EDOW patients that were hospitalized (efficacy cut-off point is less than 30%) and length of stay (efficacy cut off point is less than 18 hours) in the EDOW.

RESULTS :

EDOW is efficacious in managing paediatric and non-paediatric group as the rate of hospitalization for paediatric and non-paediatric patients were less than 30%; 26.6% and 15.3% respectively and the mean length of stay for paediatric and non-paediatric was less than 18 hours; 3.94 hours and 4.12 hours respectively.

CONCLUSIONS :

Observation ward in the emergency department proven to be effective in reducing the hospitalization rate among the paediatric patients.

PM-15

**QUALITY OF LIFE AMONG CANCER PATIENTS ON CHEMOTHERAPY
IN ONCOLOGY UNIT OF HOSPITAL UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA**

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PURPOSE :

Cancer is becoming a major health problem and leading cause of death throughout the world. Chemotherapy, one of the modes of treatment that aids in the overall survival expectation has many adverse effects. Such effects have affected majority of cancer patient's quality of life (QOL). The purpose of this study was to identify frequency of side effects during chemotherapy treatment, compare the QOL pre- and on-chemotherapy treatment and determine the domains of QOL (physical, mental and social) in relation to the three most common side effects of chemotherapy.

METHODS :

A descriptive, cross-sectional study was conducted among 50 heterogenous cancer patients with chemotherapy treatment in three oncology units of Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia. Data was collected using a questionnaire consists of section A; demography data and section B; QOL data modified from EORTC QLQ-C30, version 3.0. To explore QOL from three domains; physical, mental and social, a 4-point Likert scale was used with score 1 for *not at all* and 4 *very much*. Data was analysed using SPSS version 12.

RESULTS :

The study has revealed three most common side effects of chemotherapy were fatigue (60%), alopecia (54%) and appetite alteration (50%). There was a significant difference of QOL before and during chemotherapy treatment as the calculated p value were 0.000 ($p < 0.05$). The three most common side effects were significantly correlated with domains of QOL except for alopecia.

CONCLUSION :

Assessment and evaluation of QOL for cancer patients on chemotherapy is very important. QOL information would benefit health providers in terms of their planning, implementing, evaluating the care during various treatment periods. By doing this, QOL of patients can be improved although the patients who are on chemotherapy is confronting with the unavoidable adverse effects. It is hoped that QOL assessment will be regarded as an integral part of the clinical evaluation of cancer patients.

PM-16

RISK OF MORTALITY OF PATIENTS WITH METHICILLIN-RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS BACTERAEMIA IN HUSM

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PURPOSE :

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is one of the major hazards in hospitals and contributes to the mortality and morbidity.

The purpose of this study is to determine the outcome of MRSA bacteraemia and the association between the mortality and MRSA bacteraemia in Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia (HUSM).

METHOD :

This was a cross-sectional study from 1st July 2002 to 30th June 2003 in HUSM. All patients with blood specimen positive for *S. aureus* in the Microbiology Laboratory, HUSM were included in this study. Susceptibility test of *S. aureus* was performed using the comparative disc-diffusion method on the Diagnostic sensitivity test agar. The outcome measures included those who survived and mortality due to MRSA bacteraemia.

RESULTS :

A total of 99 patients with *S. aureus* bacteraemia were studied. Twenty patients were excluded from analysis due to other causes of mortality. Fifty-two (88%) patients with Methicillin-sensitive *S aureus* (MSSA) were survived compared to 17 (68%) of patients with MRSA bacteraemia. After controlling the age, duration before isolating MRSA/ MSSA and duration of hospital stay, multiple logistics regression showed significant risk of mortality in patients with MRSA bacteraemia compared to patients with MSSA bacteraemia (OR=14.98, p value= 0.003).

CONCLUSION :

Since, there was significant risk of mortality due to MRSA bacteraemia, therefore a proper prevention and control of MRSA bacteraemia should be emphasized.

PM-17

PREVALENCE AND SEASONALITY OF ROTAVIRUS DIARRHOEA IN KELANTANESE CHILDREN

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PURPOSE :

The aim of the study is to determine the prevalence of rotavirus diarrhoea amongst hospitalized young Kelantanese children and to observe any association of the illness with seasonality.

METHOD :

Laboratory results of rotavirus antigen detection in stool samples of children age two years or less presenting with diarrhoea, that were admitted to a teaching hospital in Kelantan, Malaysia from year 1987 to 2001 were reviewed. Patients were grouped according to age and sex, and descriptive analysis done with regards to frequency of infections and presence of concurrent infections. The seasonality of the infections was evaluated.

RESULT :

341 (17.15%) stool samples out of a total of 1,988 submitted samples were found to be rotavirus positive. Rotavirus diarrhoea occurred most frequently in 7 to 12 months old infants. The male to female ratio is 2:1 with the diarrhoea occurring most frequently in Malay children compared to non-Malays. Highest percentage of disease was recorded in year 1988 with 64 cases (14.3%) and the lowest was in 1999 with only 5 cases (6.6%). 18 cases of rotavirus diarrhoea were also found to have concurrent bacterial infections i.e. enteropathogenic *E. coli* (12), *Shigella* spp. (3), *Salmonella* spp. (2) and *Campylobacter jejuni* (1). The mixed infections were most frequently seen in the 7-24 months age group. Rotavirus-positive cases displayed a consistent pattern throughout the study period with no significant seasonality observed.

CONCLUSION :

Rotavirus infections are an important cause of hospitalization for infective diarrhoea in young Kelantanese children. Possibility of concurrent bacterial infections should be considered in rotavirus-positive cases. No significant seasonality of rotavirus diarrhoea was observed. Continuous surveillance of rotavirus diarrhoea in young children would play an important role in assessing the disease burden and the need of rotavirus vaccination.

PM-18

THE PREVALENCE OF REACTIVE SCREENING IN WHOLE BLOOD DONATION IN HUSM

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PURPOSE :

Screening of blood is mandatory for providing safe blood. This includes blood grouping, ensuring compatibility of the donor and the recipient as well as testing for transfusion-transmitted agents. Despite a careful donor selection programme, some donors may be seropositive for Human-immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or other infectious agents; rigorous screening of all donated blood is therefore required to ensure the safety of the blood supply. The transmission of infection through transfusion of infected blood and blood products can be easily prevented through screening of blood. The aim of this study is to study the prevalence of reactive screening in screening transfusion-transmissible disease among the blood donors in HUSM.

METHODS :

This retrospective study was conducted in all blood donated from year January 2003 to December 2004. Total of donor's blood collected for 2003 and 2004 were 8,228 and 10,794 respectively. All the screening results from donation records of HIV, Hepatitis screening (HBs Ag and HCV) and VDRL were reviewed, analysed and included in statistical analysis.

RESULTS :

For the year 2003, 262 (3.18%) of collected blood were screened to be reactive for HbsAg (1.19%), HCV (1.09%), HIV (0.21%) and VDRL (0.68%). In the year 2004, 263 (2.44%) reactive for HbsAg (0.86%), HCV (0.94%), HIV (0.12) and VDRL (0.51%).

CONCLUSION :

Strategies to identify, recruit and retain donors from low-risk populations should be highlighted. Donors should be made aware of transfusion-transmissible disease, risk behavior and window period of an infectious disease. The donor population could be made aware of the above through public awareness programmes. Stringent donor screening and selection criteria with opportunities for self-deferrals should be followed.

PM-19

EFFECT OF HAND WASHING PRACTICE ON THE TOTAL BACTERIAL COUNT ON NURSES' HANDS

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PURPOSE :

Health care professionals such as nurses and doctors are required to practice aseptic techniques in order to minimize hospital-acquired infections (HAI), which are known as one of leading causes of mortality, morbidity and prolonged hospital stay of patients. Hand washing is one of the effective procedures in eliminating HAI through cross-transmission incident in hospitals. The objective of this study is to determine the total bacterial count on nurses' hands before and after hand washing and to identify types of nursing care that contribute to the nurses' hands contamination.

METHODS :

The study was conducted in Medical Ward, Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia (HUSM). Thirty nurses were chosen as respondents through simple randomized sampling. Observations were done to the hand washing practice by the nurses. Respondents were requested to press their fingers on the total bacterial count (TBC) plates before and after hand washing and after nursing care activities.

RESULTS :

There were a positive correlation between duration of hand washing (N=30, SD =6.388, p=0.02) and nursing care activities (N=30, p=0.01) with the TBC on nurses' hands.

CONCLUSION :

Practice of proper hand washing techniques are important in eliminating cross-transmission from nurses' hands to patients. It is recommended that species of bacteria colonized on nurses' hands should be identified for future research