

An audit of paediatric dental theatres cancellations and reasons

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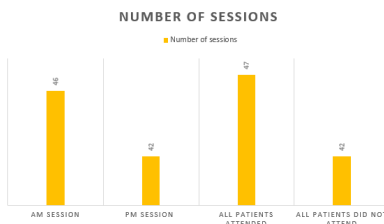
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Objective: The Paediatric Dental Unit follows a set criteria to allot time slots for patients with special needs, consisting of single slot (45 minutes, straight forward treatments), double slot (90 minutes, children on the Autism spectrum, challenging behavior requiring pre-medications or medically compromised patients), triple slot (135 minutes, complex procedures). The increase frequency of dental General Anesthetic (GA) cancellations prompted this audit to ascertain the reasons for cancellations and propose solutions.

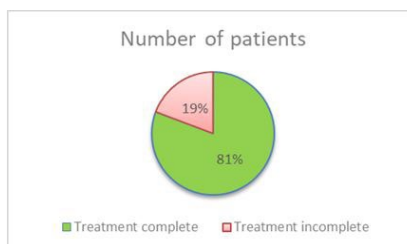
Aim: To investigate the overall cancellations in GA lists for Paediatric dental treatment in Theatre 5.

Methodology: A retrospective audit of 88 sessions of GA lists was undertaken from 01 June 2024 till 9 August 2024.

Results: Out of the 88 sessions in total 46 were AM sessions and 42 PM Sessions (4 extra AM sessions in addition to 21 full day GA lists).

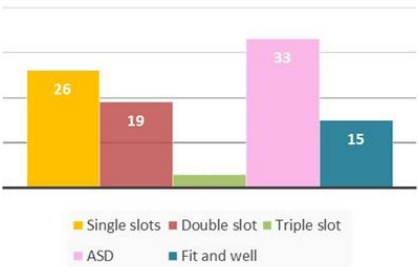


Total numbers of patients booked in GA lists were 249. GA treatment was completed for 201 patients and GA was cancelled for 48 patients for various reasons.



Treatment incomplete refers to incomplete dental treatment under GA. If parents informed of cancellation or child was unwell, the bookings teams were asked to reschedule the appointment. If patient were not brought in, then patients were discharged and removed from GA waiting list.

Of the 48 cancellations, 33 cancellations were of autistic patients and 15 fit and well.
3 triple slots were cancelled (2 unable to premedicate and 1 revoked consent on the day of GA)



As more cancellations are for slots given to autistic patients, consideration is given to parents/ guardian's difficulties with managing an early morning appointment transport, challenging behavior, and other childcare responsibilities.



Recommendations:

1. Cancellations due to illness: For accurate telephone and email contacts to be given while booking GA appointments for prompt information if GA needs to be cancelled.
2. Preoperative assessment to be undertaken and completed before dating for GA
3. Digital Consent shared prior to GA date is a successful practice as parents can be given time to read the consent shared digitally and prepare questions.

Biography

Anum Khan, specialty Paediatric Dentist at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Trust.

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