



ABSTRACTS: VOLUME 3, SPECIAL ISSUE

ABSTRACT

Missed Opportunities in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Iron Deficiency Anemia in Emergency Departments of Governmental Hospitals” Clinical Audit

Raghad Abd Allateef Lahlooh¹, Treq Salah Jarrar¹, Dr. Hatem Khammash²

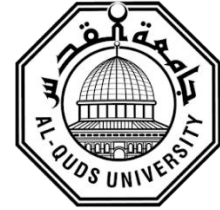
¹ Faculty of Medicine, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem, Palestine.

² Neonatology Department, Al-Makassed Hospital, Jerusalem, Palestine.

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Background: Iron Deficiency Anemia (IDA) is the most common anemia in pediatrics globally. Children from poor socioeconomic status families and whose mothers were iron-deficient during pregnancy are at a higher risk. As per the World Health Organization (WHO), Anemia affects around half of all preschool-aged children globally. IDA is a critical health factor for their motor and neurodevelopment. And since the majority of cases are asymptomatic, this puts the responsibility on healthcare workers to diagnose and treat it. Previous studies stated that it is unknown how many newborns and children are getting checked as recommended. Screening does not take place due to high cost and young’s discomfort from blood tests. Infants and children with infectious diseases visit emergency departments, and a large percent of them have a Complete Blood Count (CBC). This is an excellent opportunity to screen for anemia. However, physicians are likely to be mainly concerned with the white cell count.

Objective: To determine the percentage of IDA patients who were neglected by medical teams in governmental hospital emergencies because their primary complaint did not indicate hematological problem.



Methods: Data collection was carried out by a questionnaire that contained questions about: demographic information, cause of visit, family history of Thalassemia, Anemia symptoms, availability and source of CBC test, iron supplement recommendation and lab tests (Hemoglobin, MCV). Data collection was made in emergency departments of Ramallah Medical Complex Hospital, Beit-Jala Hospital and Hebron Governmental Hospital between August 2021 and December 2021. Children 6 –144 months of age were included in the study. They were divided into 2 age groups: the first group 6 – 60 months and the Second group 60 – 144 months.

Findings: Data contains 58.23% males and 41.77% females. The first age group is 104 patients with average Hemoglobin of 9.6 and average MCV of 66.6. About 59.6% of children had mild anemia, whereas 39.4% had moderate anemia and only 0.9% had severe anemia. The second age group is 53 patients with average Hemoglobin of 10.2 and average MCV of 68.9. About 79.2% of children had mild anemia, whereas 18.8% had moderate anemia and only 1.8% had severe anemia. Two cases with severe anemia and 39 cases with moderate anemia were missed.

Conclusion: Results were disappointing; this could be due to negligence in taking history and doing physical exam, poor following of (CBC) results or under appreciation of the impact of IDA in this age group. Sharing these results with the emergencies staff and continuous re-evaluation of medical practice should be taken into consideration.

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