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Patient safety in its current state is biased and unreliable, lets fix it

Patient safety progress has slowed. After much activity following the clarion call of "To Err is Human" in 1999, safety science lacks innovation and needs re-calibration. There is evidence of rates of harm that have not improved over time. Also, there is emerging information in the US about specific harm types known as Hospital Acquired Conditions (HAC). Incremental progress was lost during the COVID pandemic with these HACs. Now, patient groups are calling for action, and rightly so. With all the attention to patient safety in the past few decades, why do we have this stasis? We have a reliability expert wondering why patient safety is "Still Not Safe." How did we get here, and are all our efforts for naught?

We will discuss the background of this situation with an exploration of current patient safety language, including inconsistencies in safety research using this language and its impact on patient safety operations. There are discrepancies in adult and paediatric medicine from multiple countries worldwide. We will also discuss emerging biases in event identification and inequities among those who experience safety events, showing that the disadvantaged experience at least two more injustices, more experienced and fewer identified events.

We will also explore the state of safety event identification. Except in some countries, current safety event capture mechanisms have inherent flaws which make measurement impossible and improvements challenging to assess. Some additional areas impacting safety inconsistencies are the perceived level of rigor with which our organizations address safety events. For example, high harm, preventable events likely receive prompt and full-scale attention from an organization, while lesser harm events receive less attention. Finally, we will discuss the impact of incentives placed on organizations and potential solutions for each of these areas of concern.

Recent Publications

- 1. Landrigan CP, Schuster MA, Klugman D, Bisarya H, Classen DC, Dizon, ZB Matt Hall M, Wood M, Sharek PJ. Using a Pediatric Trigger Tool to Estimate the Proportion of Total Harm Burden Hospital Acquired Conditions Represent. Pediatr Qual Saf. 2018;3(3).
- Landrigan CP, Toomey ST, Loren SS, Jang J, Quinn JA, Ashrafzadeh S, Wang MJ, Wu M, Sharek PJ, Classen DC, Srivastava R, Parry G, Schuster MA, for the GAPPS Study Group. Adverse Events in Hospitalized Pediatric Patients. Pediatrics. 2018. e20173360.
- 3. Thomas T, Fieldston ES, Hall M, Czaja AS, Stalets EL, Biehler J, Sheehan M, Foglia D, Byrd S, McClead RE. Using Length of Stay to Understand Patient Flow for Acute and Critically III Pediatric Hospitalized Patients. Pediatr Qual Saf. 2017;3(1).

Biography

David C Stockwell is the Chief Medical Officer of the Johns Hopkins Children's Center and an Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine at Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine, USA. He has over 80 publications that have been cited over 1,100 times, and his publication H-index is 22 and has been serving as an Associate Editor of Pediatric Quality and Safety since its inception. With over 15 years of patient safety research, specifically with patient adverse event identification, he is developed the American Standard Assessment method for inpatient pediatrics safety events, endorsed by the National Quality Forum. Utilizing this standard process in the paper or electronic medical record, users may detect, describe and classify adverse events in order to adequately describe the epidemiology of pediatric inpatient harm from medical care. He is also an accomplished physician administrator, previously in quality and safety and now, a wider scope.

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Psycho-emotional status of children with Psycho-Speech Delay

Introduction: Psycho-Speech Delay is manifested as a slowdown in cognitive and emotional development. Noticing the lag, many parents begin extensive activities to formation of skills, overloading and making excessive demands on the child. A child's fear of not meeting the parent's criteria leads to psychological dysfunction that exacerbates the cognitive deficit, so the efforts of a well-meaning parent can cause anxiety disorder.

Objective: Evaluation of psycho-emotional status in children with Psycho-Speech Delay.

Methods: The study involved 132 children (58% boys) aged 5 to 11 years (mean age - 7.0 ± 1.64 years) with a diagnosis of Psycho-Speech Delay. The study methods included neuropsychological testing using Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (subtests 4, 5, 7, 9 and 12) to confirm the Psycho-Speech Delay. The psycho-emotional sphere was assessed using the anxiety test of R. Temple, M. Dorky, V. Amen.

Results: According to the projective method for children's anxiety assessment "Choose the right face" (by R. Temple, M. Dorky, V. Amen), most patients had a high and medium level of anxiety (33.3% and 40.9%, respectively). Some patients (13.6% of the sample) could not make a choice in favor of one or another answer due to inability to understand socio-dramatic images and lack of emotional intelligence at the stage of understanding emotions.

Conclusions: Majority of children with Psycho-Speech Delay have an increased level of anxiety. When identifying increased anxiety in a child with Psycho-Speech Delay, it would be appropriate to provide psychological and pedagogical management to the family. The work should be aimed not only at reducing child's anxiety and developing adaptive self-regulation skills, but also (and no less importantly) at forming adequate expectations of parents. Emotional reactions inadequate to situation, difficulties with understanding and regulation of emotions are predictors of social maladaptation.

Recent Publications

- 1. Kaminskaya T.S. et al. (2022) Cognitive «portrait» of children with mental retardation. Lechaschi Vrach. 4:19-26. (In Russian).
- Kasanave E.V. (2022) Somatic Features and Diet Therapy of Children with Delays in Psychospeech Development of the Autism Spectrum. Doctor.Ru 21(3):58–65. (in Russian).
- Trepilets V.M., Bykova O.V., Khachatryan L.G. (2021) Use of the Drug Cogitum in Children with Cerebral Palsy and Speech Disorders. Nervnye bolezni. 1:39-44. (in Russian).

Biography

Kaminskaya Tatyana Svyatoslavovna has vast experience in management of children of Psycho-Speech Delay. She specializes in development and implementation of personalized approaches in treatment of cognitive deficit based on its predominant components and utilization of device-based therapies.

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Katie P Nguyen

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Ovarian Torsion: Presentation and management in a pediatric patient

Background: Adnexal torsion is the fifth most common gynecologic emergency accounting for approximately 20 to 30% of ovarian surgeries in pediatric patients.

Case: The patient is a ten-year-old female who presented to the emergency room for severe left lower quadrant abdominal pain. On presentation, she was hemodynamically stable with an acute abdomen. A transabdominal ultrasound showed a predominantly anechoic structure measuring up to 5.6 cm without definitive doppler flow, concerning for a large cyst causing ovarian torsion. Gynecology was consulted, and the patient underwent a diagnostic laparoscopy, aspiration of the left ovarian cyst, and left ovarian detorsion. Pathology results were consistent with benign cystic contents.

Conclusion: Appropriate diagnosis and timely surgical gynecological intervention allowed this pediatric patient to salvage and preserve ovarian function.

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- 2. J. M. Prieto, K. M. Kling, R. C. Ignacio et al., "Premenarchal patients present differently: A twist on the typical patient presenting with ovarian torsion," Journal of Pediatric Surgery, vol. 54, no. 12, pp. 2614–2616, 2019.
- ACOG Clinical Document (published from August 2019 through present): Adnexal torsion in adolescents, "Adnexal Torsion in Adolescents," Obstetrics and Gynecology, vol. 134, no. 2, pp. e56–e63, 2019.

Biography

Katie P Nguyen is a Physician from California. She attended University of California, Los Angeles where she obtained her bachelor of science in psychobiology. She earned her medical degree from Michigan State University, College of Human Medicine and is currently completing her residency training in family medicine at Riverside Community Hospital in Riverside, California. She is pursuing further training in women's health and Surgical Obstetrics. She has a particular interest in Women's health, Prenatal care, Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Adolescent Medicine, and Peventative Medicine. Her focus is bridging the care gap for underserved communities and vulnerable populations.

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Respiratory disorders among adolescent females exposed to pesticides, Menoufia Governorate, Egypt

Adolescent females relative to pesticide applicators are often environmentally exposed to pesticides either by living near planting sites, by using pesticides at home, or by having contact with contaminated clothes and pesticide application work tools. This study aimed to evaluate whether environmental pesticide exposure could be associated with respiratory disorders among adolescent females. A cross-sectional study was conducted on a random sample of 100 pesticide exposed and 50 non-exposed adolescent females at Menoufia Governorate, Egypt during the period of pesticide application season of cotton crop from the first day of May to the end of September 2017. The participants were interviewed using a predesigned questionnaire about pesticide exposure and respiratory manifestations. Also, spirometric measurements and Acetylcholinesterase (AChE) activity were performed before and after the pesticide application season. The control adolescent females had a higher AChE activity, a lower prevalence of respiratory symptoms and higher means spirometric measurements than the exposed group. The exposed group presented a prevalence of 6% and 24% for cough, 4% and 11% for rhinitis, and 6% and 26% for dyspnea during the pre and post season; respectively. In addition, there was a decrease in spirometric measurements (FEV1%, FEV1/FVC%, FEF 25-75% and PEF%) in post than preseason among the exposed group. Also, there were significant associations between (AChE) activity and either of prevalence of respiratory manifestations or spirometric measurements among the exposed females. These findings suggest an association between environmental pesticide exposure and either of respiratory manifestations or spirometric measurements among adolescent females relative to pesticide applicators. Educational and training intervention programs on pesticide handling and safety precautions are recommended for protecting either the occupationally or environmentally pesticide exposed personnel.

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Biography

Gaafar Mohamed Abdel-Rasoul is a Professor of Occupational, Environmental and Community Medicine. He has an experience in public health research including Adolescent and Pediatric health. He has many national and international research articles in this field. He supervised approximately 150 Master and MD theses. He has an experience for 40 years in teaching medicine in the era of public health, environmental and Occupational Medicine, medical and vital statistics, and Epidemiology. He participated in many national and international conferences all over the world. He is a reviewer for many national and international journals. He is a member in Egyptian Universities Promotion Committees (EUPC). He is the Egyptian principal investigator for many national and international medical projects.

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