

Effect of specialist retrieval teams on outcomes in children admitted to paediatric intensive care units in England and Wales: a retrospective cohort study.

Ramnarayan, P et al. Lancet 2010; 376: 698–704.

BACKGROUND: Intensive care services for children are substantially centralised in the UK. Along with the establishment of regional paediatric intensive care units (PICUs), specialist retrieval teams were set up to transport critically ill children from other hospitals. Hence a study was designed to assess the outcome of patients, transferred from local hospitals to PICUs.

OBJECTIVE: The study was designed to assess whether admissions to PICUs from other hospitals were associated with worse outcomes, and to assess the effect of transfer by a specialist retrieval team on outcome.

DESIGN: Data from a cohort of children (≤ 16 years) admitted consecutively to 29 PICUs in England and Wales during 4 years (Jan 1, 2005, to Dec 31, 2008) (PICANet) was analysed.

ACADEMIC P.E.A.R.L.S

Pediatric Evidence And Research Learning Snippet



Specialist retrieval teams for Pediatric Transport

Results: In this study cohort, nearly 2/3rd admissions were unplanned, and were primarily for a medical indication. Of these, 13,729 (81%) were specialist team retrievals, while 3146 (19%) were non-specialist team retrievals. Multivariable analysis showed significantly lower risk of death (0.58, 0.39–0.87) with specialist retrieval team transfers, than with non-specialist team transfers after adjustment for case-mix (age, sex, surgical status, and variables for PIM) and organisational factors (patient's strategic health authority).

Conclusion: Specialist retrieval teams, when used for interhospital transport of critically ill children, were associated with reduced risk-adjusted mortality.

EXPERT COMMENT

"Protocolised, planned pediatric transports led by specialist retrieval teams, can potentially lead to better outcomes. Specialist team retrievals have also shown to have lower incidence of transport related adverse events. Similar centralised pediatric specialised retrieval teams are the need of the hour."



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With warm regards,

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Reference

Ramnarayan P, Thiru K, Parslow RC, Harrison DA, Draper ES, Rowan KM. Effect of specialist retrieval teams on outcomes in children admitted to paediatric intensive care units in England and Wales: a retrospective cohort study. Lancet. 2010 Aug 28;376(9742):698-704. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(10)61113-0.