POSTER PRESENTATIONS

P17

TRENDING OF CHILD ABUSE CASES PRESENTED TO PUTRAJAYA HOSPITAL

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Introduction: Child abuse cases are on the rise, with the highest incidence reported in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur in 2008 by Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Malaysia.

Objective: To observe the pattern of child abuse cases and to identify associated features and possible contributing factors.

Method: The electronic medical records were reviewed retrospectively from 1st January 2007 to 31st December 2009.

Results: A total of 56 children were included for the study period (13 in 2007, 20 in 2008, 23 in 2009), with a predominance of male (60.7%) and children less than 2 years old (76.8%). Patients consisted of Malay (89.3%), Chinese (5.4%), Indian (1.8%) with age ranged from 0 – 14 years. Majority (62.5%) of the incidence occurred outside Putrajaya. There was an increasing tendency for abuse cases to occur outside home over the years (from 46.2% to 54.5%). The types of injuries ranged from head injury (73.2%), bruises (14.3%), fractures (7.1%), sexual abuse (1.8%) and others (3.6%). Of head injury cases, 39.0% had intracranial bleed. The prevalence of mortality was 30.8%, 60.0%, 39.1% in 2007, 2008 and 2009 respectively, whereby only 40.0% had post-mortem performed.

Conclusion: The increasing trend of child abuse may reflect the increasing population in and around Putrajaya consisting of mostly working parents who depend on child care services. Children younger than 2 years old had higher risk of being abused and should be given more attention. Intracranial bleed is the leading cause of death and public awareness on prevention is warranted.