Subtheme 3: Education, the pandemic, and beyond   OP27

The institutional mortality rate and pattern of mortality among patients admitted to Jaffna Teaching Hospital

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Background and Objective: Mortality statistics provide a valuable measure for assessing community health status. They are used as a cornerstone in formulating health plans and policies to prevent or reduce premature mortality. This study aimed to determine the mortality rate and the pattern of mortality among patients admitted to Jaffna Teaching Hospital in 2019.

Methods: This is a hospital-based descriptive cross-sectional study based on secondary data. Institutional mortality rate and pattern of mortality were determined using a data extraction form to extract data from the Indoor Morbidity and Mortality Register (IMMR) and Medical Statistics Unit of Teaching Hospital Jaffna. Descriptive and inferential statistics were performed using SPSS software.

Results: A total of 134,258 patients were admitted to the Teaching Hospital Jaffna in the year 2019. Of them, 1696 patients were certified dead accounting for a mortality rate of 1.26%. In total, 59.1% of the patients certified dead were male. In the sample, mortality was highest among the 60–75 years age group accounting for 671 patients (39.6%), closely followed by the above 75 years age group (n=398, 23.5%). Leading causes of death among Jaffna Teaching Hospital inpatients in 2019 were diseases of the respiratory system (23.8%) and cardiovascular system (21.9%). In males, the leading cause of death was diseases of the respiratory system and in females, diseases of the circulatory system. Infant death was higher compared to mortality among young children and adolescents. Among the deaths, 369 deaths were of patients who resided within 5 km, followed by 315 within 5 to 10 km, and 251 within10-15 km of the hospital.

Conclusions: The leading causes of death in Jaffna Teaching Hospital in 2019 were diseases of the respiratory and circulatory systems. The peak of hospital death occurs among the elderly, especially the young elderly. Comorbidities that develop in early adulthood may lead to an increased death rate in the young elderly population.

Keywords: Mortality rate, Cause of death, Jaffna Teaching Hospital