

Methods: This is a preliminary secondary data analysis. Data on dengue in 2016, were extracted, from the records of Infection Control Unit of Teaching Hospital Anuradhapura (THA). Data on rainfall was extracted from the Meteorology Department of Anuradhapura.

Results: Total of 513 clinically diagnosed dengue cases were reported and of them, 326 (63.5%) were laboratory confirmed. Of the clinically diagnosed cases, 357 (69.6%) were males, and 156 (30.4%) were females. The mean age of patients was 31.3 years (SD=14). The highest number of cases were reported during July and August (161 (31.3%)). There were 129 (25.3%) from urban MOH areas. There were only two cases of DHF and no deaths. The highest rainfall was reported during May (463mm) and lowest rainfall was reported in August and September (0 mm).

Conclusions: Most of the dengue patients were males in working age group from urban setting. Though highest number of cases are expected during rainy season of Anuradhapura, highest number of cases were reported during non-rainy season. Further studies are needed to establish actual relationships between monthly rainfall in different parts of the country and the incidence of dengue. However, curative and preventive health sector must pay more attention towards dengue during non-rainy seasons as well as rainy seasons.

PP89

Road traffic injuries and impacts in Jaffna

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Objectives: This study aims to focus on the health and social impact of Road Traffic Injuries (RTI) in Jaffna.

Methods: This is an institutional based descriptive cross sectional study. Data were collected prospectively from all the patients who were admitted to Teaching Hospital, Jaffna following RTI in the period of October 2016 which is the only tertiary center covering the entire northern population.

Results: 298 patients participated. Among them 232 (77.8%) and 66 (22.1%) were males and females respectively. 116 patients (38.9%) were in the age group of 15-30 years. Most of them were motorcyclists 183 (61.4%) and cyclists 66 (22.8%). Commonest mode of accident was collusion with moving objects- 263 (88.2%) and only 35 (11.8%) with non-moving objects. Among them 160 (53.7%) were carried to the hospital by three wheeler and 55 (18.5%) by motor cycle. Mean time to reach the closest hospital was 19.46 minutes and it ranges from 5-60 minutes. 47 (15.8%) victims were under the influence of alcohol. Only 12% of the accidents were due to poor road quality.

Conclusions: Most of victims were young males. Significant proportion of people was unaware of the existence of free ambulance services and most of the victims were carried by three wheelers and motor cycles to the nearest hospital. Still alcohol impaired driving crashes, accounted for a significant percentage of incidents which is preventable. Public awareness is necessary to prevent the primary and improper transportation injuries.

PP90

Prescribing tendency at the outpatient department of Teaching Hospital, Jaffna

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Objectives: This study is designed to assess the prescribing tendency at outpatient department (OPD) of Teaching Hospital, Jaffna (THJ) using World Health Organization (WHO) core prescribing indicators.

Methods: This is a part of a cross sectional descriptive study titled "An audit on outpatient department prescriptions at Teaching Hospital, Jaffna", carried out in November 2015. All the OPD prescriptions received on a single day at OPD pharmacy were collected. Prescribing tendency was analyzed using WHO core prescribing indicators: 1) average number of drugs per encounter, 2) percentage of drugs prescribed by generic name, 3) percentage of prescriptions with an antibiotic, 4) percentage of prescriptions with an injection and 5) percentage of drug prescribed from essential medicines list. Simple descriptive statistics were used in data analysis. Standard values for WHO core prescribing indicators described were used to interpret the results.

Results: Total of 640 prescriptions by 11 OPD medical officers in a single day containing 1834 drugs were analyzed. Average number of drugs per prescription was 2.9 (SD=1.1) which was higher than standard value (1.6-1.8). Only 41.4% of drugs were prescribed in generic name which should have been 100%. Antibiotics were prescribed in 71.9% of the prescriptions which was much higher than the standard range (20.0-26.8%). Only 2.7% prescriptions had injections that is well below the standard range (13.4 - 24.1%) and 95.6% of the prescribed drugs were from National List of Essential Medicines, Sri Lanka (standard value 100%).

Conclusions: Prescribing tendency at the OPD is unsatisfactory and measures need to be taken to improve prescribing practice, particularly prescribing in generic names and prescriptions with antibiotics.

PP91

Correlates of quality of life of older people in Galle District

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Objectives: In this study, how age, gender, hemoglobin level and cognitive impairment are related to Quality of Life (QoL) of older people in Galle District were investigated.

Methods: A community-based descriptive study was conducted in 2016 using a sample of 396 older people (aged 60 years and above). Their cognitive impairment using Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) and hemoglobin (Hb%) levels were measured. QoL was assessed using the score of the WHOQOL-BREF questionnaire. Ethical clearance was obtained from the Ethical Review Committee of Faculty of Medicine, Galle.

Results: Mean age of the participants was 69 years (SD=7.2) and 67.7 % were females. Regression analysis indicated that the total QoL score of older people declined with aging ($p=0.012$) whereas cognitive impairment showed negative ($p=0.001$) and hemoglobin level showed positive ($p=0.015$) association with QoL of the subjects. No association was found between gender and QoL.

Conclusions: Older people's QoL seems to get deteriorated with age. Risk factors may include anemia, and inadequate social and psychological support. Being a middle income country, Sri Lanka has a very limited health care budget. Thus, local health care authorities should look for low-cost, self sustainable strategies to deal with anemia, and social and psychological problems faced by disadvantaged older people.

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Self-medication practice among the students of University of Jaffna

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Objective: This study was designed to study the prevalence and factors influencing self-medication practices (SMP) among the students of University of Jaffna.