

Conclusion: This audit emphasizes the importance of clinical knowledge and analytical skills in medicine. Clinicians must rely on their expertise and analytical abilities to diagnose and treat infectious diseases accurately with limited diagnostic resources. These skills enable healthcare professionals to make informed decisions, develop guidelines, innovate in the face of scarcity, and lead initiatives that improve health outcomes for entire communities.

Key words: Acute undifferentiated febrile illness (AUI), Typhus infection, Leptospirosis

OP12

The incidence of hypothyroidism in patients undergoing radiotherapy for head and neck cancer

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Introduction: Head and neck cancers (HNCs) are the most common cancers in Sri Lanka. Radiotherapy is commonly used for treatment either in the definitive, adjuvant or palliative settings. Radiation-induced hypothyroidism (RIH) is a known late side effect of neck radiotherapy. RIH often goes undiagnosed for years due to overlapping non-specific symptoms with other conditions.

Objective: This study was designed to identify the incidence of RIH among patients receiving neck radiotherapy for HNCs.

Design, Setting and Method: Patients treated with curative intent radiotherapy for HNCs between 1st January 2013 to 31st December 2022 were recruited for the study. The required data were extracted from individual patient records. Statistical software SPSS(V25) was used to analyze the data.

Results: A total of 1439 participants diagnosed with HNCs over a span of 10 years were extracted from the cancer registry. The majority (81%) were males, and the mean age was 63 years. Among them (80) 1025) were treated with Radiotherapy. The intention of radiotherapy was curative in 73% and palliative in 27%. Of those offered curative radiotherapy (n=90, 748 completed the treatment and the rest defaulted in between. The majority (57%) received a dose of 66 Gy in 33 fractions. Only (8)61) patients underwent regular post-radiotherapy Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH) testing to detect hypothyroidism. Among them, (46) 28) patients were diagnosed to have Hypothyroidism.

Conclusion: Considering the findings of the study, RIH affects 1 in 2 patients undergoing neck irradiation, highlighting the significant health hazard that demands focused attention.

Regular measurement of TSH, which is a simple blood test during clinical follow up will enable early identification of RIH and timely intervention.

Keywords: Head and neck cancers, Radiotherapy, Radiation-induced hypothyroidism, Late side effects

OP13

Stomach containing – Giant inguinoscrotal hernia

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Inguinal hernia is more commonly observed in males than females, with rare occurrences involving distant fixed structures such as the stomach. Herein, we present a case of a 70-year-old male who presented in septic shock with a giant inguinoscrotal hernia complicated by slow atrial fibrillation. Following initial resuscitation, the patient underwent an exploratory laparotomy, during which manual reduction of the hernia was performed. It was discovered that the hernia contained a perforated stomach, necessitating abdominal washout to remove peritoneal contaminants, repair of the gastric perforation, and closure of the midline incision with laparostomy. Unfortunately, postoperatively, the patient developed ongoing sepsis with multiorgan failure and persistent atrial fibrillation, leading to his demise on the second day post-operation.

OP14

Knowledge on leprosy among patients with leprosy in the Batticaloa district

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Background and objective: Leprosy is a neglected tropical disease caused by *Mycobacterium leprae* acquired through droplets, affecting primarily skin and nerves. Various social and cultural factors, including knowledge of the disease, shape decision-making and contribute significantly to delays in treatment seeking behavior. Visible deformities contribute to intense social stigma and social discrimination. This study aimed to assess the knowledge of leprosy among patients with leprosy in Batticaloa District.

Method: A community-based descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 427 patients with leprosy in all Medical Officer of Health areas (14) in Batticaloa district. The sample size was calculated using the standard formula and the stratified sampling method