The Cost of Juvenile Onset Recurrent Respiratory Papillomatosis (JoRRP) at Red Cross Children’s Hospital over 1 year

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Introduction

- Juvenile onset Recurrent Respiratory Papillomatosis (JoRRP) is caused by Human Papillomavirus (HPV) 6 & 11.[1]

- The estimated incidence and prevalence in South Africa is low, at 1.34 and 3.88 per 100,000 people respectively. (2)

- However, these children are at risk of recurrent life-threatening airway compromise. Respiratory distress occurs from airway obstruction caused by recurrent papilloma growth. (3)

- There is currently no cure, and management involves regular surgical debulking of papillomas. (3) The high recurrence rate often necessitates multiple surgeries.

Aim

- To assess the medical costs of children with JoRRP at RCCH over 1 year.

Results

DEMOGRAPHICS

- 15 children actively treated.
- 43 surgeries performed, 8 non-elective, 5 emergencies
- Average age was 70 months (range 26-123 months)
- 5 new cases diagnosed - average age 51 months (range 6-123 months).

COST (Table 1)

- Single surgical debulking - R27 657.73
- Additional cost of laryngeal debrider blade - R5 547.99.
- Average number of surgeries per child - 2.9/12 months (range 1-7 months).
- 5 new cases, 2 were aggressive, each required 5 surgeries over the 12 months, 1 needed a tracheostomy.

Conclusions

- Despite low incidence, prompt treatment repeatedly utilises substantial resources.
- Effective preventative measures are needed:
  - Minimising unnecessary admissions and high care use,
  - Alleviating the burden of disease
  - Improving the Quality of Life (QOL) of affected children & their families.

References


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