A Survey of the Treatment of Periorbital Cellulitis in the Paediatric Population at District General Hospitals across the United Kingdom

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BACKGROUND

• Periorbital cellulitis is a potentially devastating sight and life-threatening complication of rhinosinusitis.
• It is most common in the paediatric population, particularly under the age of 10.
• If not treated in a timely and appropriate manner, posterior spread of infection can lead to serious complications, including visual loss, cavernous sinus thrombosis and intracranial infection.
• To our knowledge, there are currently no existing national consensus guidelines in the United Kingdom for the treatment of periorbital cellulitis in children.

AIMS

• To establish the prevalence of local guidelines and current clinical practice for the treatment of periorbital cellulitis in children at admitting District General Hospitals (DGH) in the UK.

METHODS

• A telephone survey was conducted to 40 DGHs in three regions of the UK in 2017 [North West, East of England, South East].
• First on-call otolaryngology doctors were contacted and asked whether their hospital had a treatment protocol for periorbital cellulitis in children, antibiotics used and the use of topical adjuncts.
• 95% response rate (n=38)

RESULTS

• This chart demonstrates the number of hospitals with an existing treatment protocol for periorbital cellulitis in children

Fig 1. Existing treatment protocol

Graph showing the first line antibiotic(s) of choice

• NB Some hospitals used more than one as first line
• Other = benzylpenicillin, clindamycin

Fig 2. First line antibiotics

Results of the use of adjunct topical decongestants/steroids

Fig 3. Use of topical adjuncts

DISCUSSION

• We believe this snapshot survey gives a satisfactory representation of current practice in the UK.
• Worryingly, only 36% of hospitals surveyed had existing management guidelines.
• Given the initial assessment and management is often performed by junior staff, this data demonstrates there is a clear clinical need for the development of national multidisciplinary guidelines to guide management, and ensure timely treatment is provided.

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