Paediatric superficial neck abscesses: a 10-year review of antibiotic use, microbiology culture and sensitivity
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Conclusions
- In the management of paediatric neck abscesses, no change was identified over a ten-year period in the:
  1. location of the head and neck abscesses
  2. antibiotic use
  3. causative micro-organisms
  4. antibiotic sensitivity
- No obvious resistance pattern was identified of microorganisms to the antibiotics used

Objectives
- To assess the causative microorganisms and sensitivities of neck abscesses in the paediatric population over a 10-year period.
- To evaluate any potential pattern of antibiotic resistance

Methods
- 10-year retrospective study
- 44 hospital records of all paediatric patients who presented and were treated at a single institution over a ten year period
- All patients underwent aspiration or incision and drainage, received antibiotics and had culture and sensitivity performed
- Patient demographics: gender, age, location of abscess, micro-organisms identified and antibiotic sensitivity and resistances

Results
- 20 cases
  - Male (45%) 24 female (55%)
  - Ages 0-14

The top three most common head and neck abscess locations
- submandibular space (45%)
- parotid region (16%)
- posterior triangle (14%)

Antibiotic use
- Co-amoxiclav was the antibiotic used to treat 84% of the patients with head and neck abscesses
- The second most commonly used antibiotic was Flucloxacillin (7%)

Micro-organism growth
- There was no growth in 11 of the samples (25%)
- Gram positive cocci were found in 75%
- Staphylococcus aureus being the most common bacteria in 28 patients (64%)

Resistance pattern
- No specific pattern of resistance was identified