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Brain Imaging in Older Patients With Delirium


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Journal of Patient-Centered Research and Reviews (JPCRR) is a peer-reviewed scientific journal whose mission is to communicate clinical and bench research findings, with the goal of improving the quality of human health, the care of the individual patient, and the care of populations.



Background: Prenatal care/deliveries within our family medicine clinics have declined, perhaps because patients are unaware that our clinics provide these services. With lower volumes, clinicians may feel less comfortable with current skills/knowledge of obstetric (OB) care.

Purpose: Increase family medicine clinic OB numbers, patient awareness, and clinician comfort/knowledge in OB.

Methods: English-fluient patients (18–50 years), residents and faculty at Aurora family medicine residency clinics were included. Patients were provided preintervention surveys upon check-in. Residents/faculty were surveyed via Survey Monkey. Changes made based on initial survey results were: 1) increasing systemwide awareness that our caregivers provide OB care, through fliers at emergency departments/urgent cares or posters in clinic waiting rooms; 2) keeping at least one same-day visit for OB patients; 3) distributing standard OB note templates to residents/faculty; and 4) placing patient educational handouts at each clinic. Patients, residents and faculty were reassessed at 9 months postintervention. Surveys were analyzed with Fisher's exact tests.

Results: Respondents to the preintervention survey included 83 patients, 26 residents and 19 faculty; 61 patients, 23 residents and 21 faculty responded to the postintervention survey. On both pre- and post-surveys, patients knew that their providers delivered babies (59% vs 57%, respectively; $P=0.86$). However, only 22% and 33% of patients, respectively, had a doctor at our clinics deliver their baby or partner's baby ($P=0.25$). Even so, 95% and 100% of patients, respectively, would recommend their friends or family to our family practice clinics if they became pregnant ($P=0.14$). On the pre-survey, 38% of residents felt clinic OB numbers were adequate versus 70% following intervention ($P<0.05$). On both pre- and post-surveys, residents planned on incorporating obstetric or prenatal care into their future practice (42% vs 52%, respectively; $P=0.57$). On both pre- and post-surveys, faculty felt comfortable with OB skills and knowledge (53% vs 62%, respectively; $P=0.75$). Lifestyle was the most common reason faculty gave for why they stopped doing deliveries (37% vs 33%, respectively).

Conclusion: Implementation of changes to our OB workflow resulted in non-statistically significant improvements in viewpoints toward OB. Resident feelings of OB number adequacy significantly improved following intervention. Further study in multiple clinics could confirm the effectiveness and reasons for success of our interventions.

Brain Imaging in Older Patients With Delirium

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Background: Delirium is a common, serious and costly condition in older patients admitted to the hospital. This study describes the prevalence and results of brain imaging among a cohort of older hospitalized patients with and without delirium.

Purpose: Investigate the frequency and results of brain imaging in older patients with delirium as compared to those without delirium.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional study. Data were collected on hospitalized patients age 65 years or older who were admitted to 3 hospitals in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, during a 1-month period in the fall of 2013. Subjects were tested for delirium via the "Confusion Assessment Method" by researchers for another study. The collected data included demographics, presence of delirium, computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and results of the imaging procedures. The imaging studies were done as

a part of their medical care. The authors reviewed the radiologist's final readings of the imaging studies. For all categorical variables, chi-squared/Fisher's test was used with alpha of 0.05.

Results: A total of 92 patients were included in the study. Prevalence of delirium was 17.4%. Mean age was 77 years. Overall, 24% had a CT and 9% an MRI, with the most common abnormal finding being chronic microvascular changes (13%). CT scan was performed in 44% of patients with delirium and 20% of patients without delirium ($P=0.04$). MRI was performed in zero patients with delirium and 11% without delirium ($P=0.34$). When patients with delirium were compared with patients without delirium, respectively: normal imaging was described in 1 vs 2 patients ($P=0.70$); cerebral atrophy in 3 vs 6 ($P=0.99$); chronic microvascular changes in 2 vs 10 ($P=0.17$); and acute hematoma (subdural or intraparenchymal) in 3 (43%) vs 0 ($P=0.02$).

Conclusion: In this limited study, patients with delirium were noted to be more likely to have had a CT scan. Older patients with delirium had a variety of findings on brain imaging, some of which were more clinically relevant. No specific imaging changes were diagnostic for delirium.

Quality Improvement Study for Postpartum Hypertension Readmissions

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Background: Hospital readmission rates are a focus of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This was identified as a system opportunity to improve health care quality and patient education in order to reduce preventable readmissions. In 2009, 27% of obstetric readmissions were due to hypertensive disease, and preventable readmissions regarding hypertension are flagged as an area for quality improvement in our health care system. There is limited evidence on specific management of postpartum hypertension.

Purpose: Identify risk factors in our community and reduce postpartum readmissions for hypertension within our hospital.

Methods: We performed a retrospective chart review from November 2014 to November 2015. We collected demographic data, comorbidities and information regarding hospitalization and readmission. In this, we identified 28 readmissions for postpartum hypertension, representing 57% of obstetric readmissions and noted that discharge instructions and blood pressure monitoring postpartum were two areas for improvement. Only 18% had printed instructions regarding postpartum hypertension. Via multidisciplinary education sessions, we aimed to increase surveillance for postpartum vitals for at-risk patients and provide appropriate verbal and written precautions for signs and symptoms of de novo or worsening hypertensive disease. We also improved access to care by scheduling blood pressure checks within 72 hours of discharge and utilization of visiting nursing services for blood pressure checks. The same measures were then recollected for readmissions from June 2016 to December 2016.

Results: After intervention, 61% of readmissions were related to hypertension, with 31 readmissions. Overall, there was a significant improvement in written discharge instructions regarding postpartum hypertension, with 94% receiving written instructions. At discharge, 33% had blood pressure checks and 13% had visiting nursing services arranged.