

PORTUGUESE PAEDIATRIC INTENSIVE CARE: MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

A Marques¹, L Carvalho², AR Lopes³, C Dias⁴, J Estrada¹, L Almeida-Santos³

Projecto DAIP-CIP (<http://daipcip.med.up.pt>), ¹ Unidade de Cuidados Intensivos Pediátricos, H. D. Estefânia, Lisboa, Portugal ² Unidade de Cuidados Intensivos Pediátricos, H. Pediátrico Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal ³ Unidade de Cuidados Intensivos Pediátricos, H. S. João, Porto, Portugal ⁴ Serviço Bioestatística e Informática Médica, Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade do Porto, Porto, Portugal

Background: Periodic and critical evaluation of the characteristics of the population served by PICUs is part of good practice procedures. The results presented are part of an ongoing prospective project in three Portuguese PICUs (from North, Centre and South of Portugal), designed to become the basis for evaluation of quality of delivered care and quality of life of patients submitted to paediatric intensive care.

Material and Methods: data was collected from all admissions to the three PICUs between 01/May/02 and 30/Apr/04, including age, gender, admission diagnosis (elective postoperative, respiratory, trauma, sepsis/septic shock, others), need of mechanical ventilation, outcome, forgoing life-sustaining treatments, length of PICU stay (LOS), readmission to PICU and data required to calculate probability of death algorithms (PRISM, PRISM(12h), PIM and PIM2).

Results: from the total of 1153 admissions, 46% were male patients and the median age was 41 months (range: 1-214). The percentage of admissions were: elective postoperative (28%), respiratory (18%), trauma (15%), sepsis/septic shock (8%), others (32%). Mechanical ventilation was needed in 58% of cases. Median LOS was 2.7 days. Crude mortality rate was 10% with standardised mortality rates (SMR) of 0.87, 1.16, 1.49, 1.74 for PRISM, PRISM-III(12h), PIM and PIM2, respectively. Forgoing life-sustaining treatment (FLST) occurred in 41% of all deaths. Readmission to PICU, during the same hospitalisation, occurred in 5,7% of cases.

Conclusions: Although these are results of an ongoing project, they allow us a better knowledge of our population. The mortality rate is high and FLST is a very common event preceding death. SMR shows conflicting results. Evaluation of quality of delivered care and quality of life of patients admitted to our PICU is being prospectively done and periodically reported in the web homepage of our project.