Does Pediatric Palliative Care Involvement Influence Location of Death?

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Does pediatric palliative care involvement influence location of death?

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Background

• More research is needed to improve end of life care for pediatric patients
• Few studies have examined the influence of palliative care teams on end of life care discussions

Objectives

• To describe the influence of a palliative care team on location of death and location of death discussions with patients/caregivers
• To determine whether location of death discussions influence location of death

Methods

• Retrospective cohort study
• All patients from one children’s hospital who died in 2005, 2010, or 2015
• Descriptive statistics, chi-square and Kruskal-Wallis tests were used

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Percentage of Patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age &lt;1 Year</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White/Caucasian</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Insurance</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Followed by Palliative</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Location of Death

- PICU: 27%
- ICN: 20%
- Home/Hospice House: 11%
- Other/Unknown: 30%
- ED: 6%
- Other Inpatient: 6%
- Home/Hospice House: 11%
- ED: 6%
- Other/Unknown: 30%

Disease Category

- Hematologic/Oncologic: 13%
- Neonatal: 11%
- Cardiovascular: 12%
- Neurologic/Neuromuscular: 10%
- Trauma: 8%
- Genetic/Congenital Anomaly: 14%

Location of Death Discussion Influence on Location of Death

- Yes Discussion: 43.3% home/hospice house, 9.8% PICU, 47% ICN
- No Discussion: 3.6% home/hospice house, 69.6% PICU, 26.9% ICN

Palliative Care Influence on Location of Death

- Yes Palliative: 80% PICU, 70% ICN, 50% Home/Hospice House
- No Palliative: 20% PICU, 30% ICN, 10% Home/Hospice House

Conclusions

If followed by a palliative care team, patients were:
• More likely to have a discussion about location of death (59.8% vs 26.5%, p<0.01)
• Less likely to die in the PICU and more likely to die at home/hospice house (28.2% home/hospice house, 34% PICU, 37.8% ICN vs. 14.1% home/hospice house, 53.1% PICU, 32.8% ICN; p<0.01)

With location of death discussions, patients were:
• Less likely to die in the PICU & more likely to die at home (43.3% home/hospice house, 9.8% PICU, 47% ICN vs. 3.6% home/hospice house, 69.6% PICU, 26.9% ICN; p<0.01)

With palliative care or a location of death discussion, patients were:
• Less likely to die in the PICU
• More likely to die at home

Location of death discussions were:
• More likely to occur if a palliative care team was involved