

SUMMARY

1

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This study was intended to throw light on the pattern of diseases in paediatric department in Benha University Hospital, both retrospectively and prospectively. The retrospective part of the work was taken from the hospital records concerning the inpatient in the period from January, 1985 to June, 1986 and the prospective part included one year in the outpatient in the period from July, 1986 to June, 1987, and the inpatient in the same period taken also from the hospital records. As concerns the distribution of diseases in the outpatient in the period from July, 1986 to June, 1987, it was found that;

the total number of cases seen were 3003. They represented a random sample from those attending the outpatient. There is male predominance. The sample was classified into four groups. Group I represents those below 1 year, group II represents those from 1 to 2 years. Group III represents those from 2 to 6 years. Group IV represents those above 6 years. In group I respiratory diseases predominate, followed by G.I.T. diseases then the nutritional diseases. G.I.T. diseases predominate in group II, followed by the respiratory. In group III comes first the respiratory diseases then the parasitic diseases. In group IV, the respiratory diseases predominate then the parasitic infestation, the renal diseases and cardiovascular diseases.

The respiratory diseases and diarrheal diseases as gastroenteritis is the main disorder among the gastrointestinal diseases, both are as common as in winter as summer

Most of the diseases seen in the outpatients are minor illnesses. This may be attributed to that major illnesses are usually referred from a hospital directly to the inpatient without passing to the outpatient or referred from private clinics. Gastroenteritis is the main disease in group I and II, while bronchitis and tonsillitis predominate in group III and IV.

as regards the distribution of diseases in the inpatient in the period from January, 1985 to June, 1986, the total number of admissions in this period (18 months) was 350, compared to 227 cases admitted in the period from July 1986 to June, 1987 (12 months). Now major illnesses are seen and minor illnesses are restricted to the outpatient. Nutritional marasmus got the highest percentage in the admission in group I, followed by gastroenteritis. Marasmus also dominated in group II followed by pneumonia and gastroenteritis. Still marasmus dominated in group III followed by cases of hepatosplenomegaly and pneumonia. Cases of rheumatic arthritis dominated in group IV followed by pneumonia. Cases of cardiovascular diseases took the longest duration of hospital stay. 76.2% were improved on discharge and 9.5% were died.

In the period from Juli, 1986 to June, 1987, 227 cases were admitted to the inpatient. Gastroenteritis is the main disorder in group I and II. Pneumonia predominated in group III. Lastly cases of rheumatic heart diseases predominated in group IV. Various infections got the longest duration of hospital stay. 76.2% of cases were improved and 0.8% of cases were died. The reports of the statistic department revealed that 469 cases were admitted in 1983, 696 in 1984, 572 in 1985 and 292 in 1986. Bed occupancy rate was 101% in 1983, 99 in 1984, 95% in 1985 and 100% in 1986. Bed turn over was 6.2 in 1983, 15.7 in 1984, 19.1 in 1985 and 37.5 in 1986. Lastly recommendations are given for health promotion and for increasing hospital efficiency.