A very long time ago . . .
Today . . .
Factors that contribute to aeromedical interhospital transfers through the emergency department in Central Queensland
Overview

• Population context
  • Objectives
  • Literature
  • Methodology

• Question time
Central Queensland
Rockhampton Base Hospital
New Helipad June 2015
Poorer Health Access & Literacy (Garne 2009)

Increased Chronic Disease (Wakeman 2008)

Higher Mortality from T & I (Wakeman 2008 & Hussain 2014)
Research Objectives

To examine the aeromedical interhospital transfers in regional Queensland

1. Frequency and location
2. Type – RW or FW
3. Level of ATS
4. Perceptions & experiences from the sending clinicians
5. Case Study specific to appendicitis
Literature

Interhospital transfer (IHT)

AKA: Interfacility secondary transfer delayed primary

Exact patient pathway?

- Hospital to hospital
- Remote clinic to hospital
- Hospital to tarmac to hospital

Primary to clinic to tarmac to tarmac to hospital

NOT a scene call or primary
IHT Cost

- $9,300-$15,000 (Taylor 2011)
- $50M in NSW (Taylor 2011)
- FW $3,300 per hour (Brandstrom 2014)

Literature

IHT Adverse Event, Safety & Allocation

- Crew mix & experience (Droogh 2015, Sethi 2014)
- Time of Day (Peters 2014)
- Patient severity & co-morbidities (Singh 2009)
- Resource allocation for most critical (Bertazzoni 2015, Dane 2003)
Increased Demand

• Demand for aeromedical transport is increasing (Norum 2011)
• Perth has seen an IHT increase of 14.2% (Gillman 2014)
• 37% increase of EM care in Australia (FitzGerald 2012)
• 36% IHT discharged w/o surgery (Sorensen 2013)
Literature

IHT Mortality and Morbidity

- Sicker (Sorensen 2013)
- Complex Co-morbidities (Sorensen 2013)
- Trauma = Young Men
- Medical & Cardiac = Older (Lucas 2014, Sorensen 2012)

- Improved mortality with cardiac, trauma, and stroke (Lucas 2014)

KEY! Patient characteristics, not transfer per se attribute to outcome (Lucas 2014)

IHT LOS

- Require longer LOS compared with direct admit (Golestanian 2007, Troude 2012)
- Impact an already overcrowded emergency system (Kellerman 2006, Bertazzoni 2015)
Significance of the Research

• To date there has **NOT** been analysis and exploration, into aeromedical interhospital transfers in Queensland.

• there has **NOT** been an evaluation of interhosptial flights, specific to diagnostic confirmation of appendicitis in rural and remote Central Queensland.
Contribution to knowledge and expected outcome

• The primary benefit of this study will be to bring insight into the IHT patterns in Queensland.
• Analysis of these data has potential to improve the emergency service strategies and public policy in Queensland.
Methodology

Mixed method strategy

• Qualitative: structured interviews

• Quantitative: Retrospective from State-wide data base
References


References


References


Questions?

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