The Benefits of an Audiology Clinic for Post Operative Grommet Patients- an audit of 239 children at a tertiary centre.

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Introduction

Significant waiting list pressures exist on ENT outpatient clinics. Approx. 350 grommet cases per year requiring ENT OPC post op review in our centre.

The Proposal: Audiology team to run a “Parallel Clinic” to review these children to check grommet patency and hearing test; then Discharge child if no problems. *Still have access to ENT that day if required.*

Aims:

- To determine if Parallel Clinic is cost effective alternative to ENT OPC for post Grommets
- To determine if Parallel Clinic can review children with co-morbidities
- To determine discharge rates at the Parallel Clinic

Methods

Departmental audit at Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow, of all children receiving grommets under one consultant. 1st cycle Feb 2014 – Aug 2016, the 2nd cycle Sept 2016 - Sept 2017. Data collected from patient records included: demographics, indication for surgery, discharge rate, discharge time period and co-morbidities. Discharge rates included whether the child was seen by audiology alone or required ENT review.

Results

Total 239 patients. Average age was 4.66 years for males and 5.31 for females. 6.7% were cleft lip or palate patients and 6.3% had previous grommet surgery. Indications for grommets are shown in table.

Indications for surgery		
Indication	Males	Females
OME	86	66
RAOM	40	13
OME/RAOM	14	4
Hearing loss	6	2
CSOM	6	2
Total	87	152

Results Cont.

- 128 (53.6%) patients were discharged by the audiologists alone without any input from ENT.
- The average length of time from surgery to discharge when only audiologist review was required at follow up was 2.7 months.
- Those requiring ENT review the average length was 6.83 months.
- For the 1st cycle of the audit the discharge rate at the audiologist led clinic was 47.7%. For the 2nd cycle it was 60.4%. This is an increase of 12.7% for patients being discharged by audiologists alone.

Discussion.

- The Parallel clinic was found to be cost effective- 128 patients that were discharged by the Parallel Clinic would save the ENT department over £20,000. In addition to the financial savings, this method also frees up appointments at the Consultant clinic.
- The Parallel Clinic can review children with co-morbidities, such as cleft palate, as indicated by the similar discharge rates of this cohort.
- The discharge rate at the end of the Parallel Clinic was found to be 60.4%, however this was an increasing trend and predicted to improve with more training.
- Our study supports the introduction of an audiology-led Parallel Clinic to review post-op grommet children.**