

Morbidity and Mortality Evaluation Could Be an Educational Tool to Improve Healthcare Service Delivery

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Background: Few studies have discussed the impact of morbidities and mortalities (MM) on hospital service and the impact on the practice of physicians. Regular hospital morbidity and mortality meetings are educational tools useful for assessing the quality of care and patient safety.

Objective: To evaluate the prevalence of morbidities and mortalities in a tertiary healthcare center.

Setting: King Hamad University Hospital, Bahrain.

Design: A Prospective Study.

Method: All morbidities and mortalities were evaluated from July 2015 to December 2018. All morbidities and mortalities reported directly to the committee, DATIX or through the departmental morbidity and mortality committee were investigated and evaluated. The following data were documented: age, gender, specialty, the cause of morbidity or mortality, patient's outcome, the frequency of occurrence in medical practice, available guidelines to prevent the morbidity or mortality and impact on the physician involved.

Result: One hundred twenty-four morbidity and mortality cases were reviewed from July 2015 to December 2018; sixteen were mortalities. Sixty-eight (54.8%) were females and fifty-six (45.2%) were males. Age ranged between two days and ninety-two years. The majority of cases were between twenty-one and forty years. The highest morbidity and mortality rates were seen in the surgery department, 22 (17.7%), followed by the accident and emergency department, 21 (16.9%). Morbidities were equal in both general surgery and emergency departments, 18 (16.6%), followed by orthopedics, 15 (13.8%) and obstetrics and gynecology, 14 (12.9%). Five physicians were involved in lawsuits which led to aggression against the claimant, denial, depression and frustration towards medical practice.

Conclusion: In our study, we found a trend of increasing morbidity and mortality from 2015 to 2018. In addition, we found that healthcare service was improving because of the evaluation of morbidity and mortality and the establishment of many guidelines governing various procedures.