Maternal and child health


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1 - Bandim Health Project

Background: Studying the causes of hospitalizations is useful to understand the profile of illness, in order to identify most effective interventions. Guinea-Bissau was projected to reduce the under-5 mortality rate from 200 to 80/1000 live births (2005-2015); and the causes of the deaths were attributed: neonatal, pneumonia, malaria and diarrhea. In 2014 the mortality rate was 55/1000 live births in Guinea-Bissau, and malaria, diarrhea and respiratory infection were the main causes of illness. The present study aims to describe the main causes of hospitalization and death in children under 5 years in the pediatric clinic of the “Simão Mendes” National Hospital.

Method: Descriptive and retrospective study, with search of data from health care records. STATA and Microsoft Excel programs were used for data analysis and cleaning. It was considered a case: Children under 5 years, diagnosed from 2015 to 2017.

Results: In 17250 cases of hospitalizations, the overall lethality rate for 2015-2017 was calculated at 7.5%. There was an increase in the lethality rate (10.8%) in 2017. Among the main causes of hospitalization were gastrointestinal infection (26.9%), malaria (23%), respiratory infection (17.6%) and septicemia (16.1%). Septicemia is the disease with the highest lethality rate during these three years (18%), the case fatality rate due to gastrointestinal infection in 2017 (7.7%) was double compared with 2015 and 2016. 19% of deaths were for those who live far from hospital (> 40 km).

Conclusion: Year 2017 therefore having fewer hospitalization cases is the year with the highest lethality rate. The gastrointestinal infection and malaria were the main causes of hospitalization. The rate of lethality from diarrhea and septicemia has increased significantly and with worse outcome in those living far from Bissau.