

Congenital CCAD newsletter July 2009

Antenatal diagnosis data going live

Following on from the discussions at the RCS CCAD meeting this January, we have now analysed our data on antenatal diagnosis. It is encouraging that data quality for this simple piece of information has hugely improved, particularly if we concentrate on data for the “major” anomalies (defined simply as those needing treatment in infancy). By 1st July we plan to post on the public portal each cardiac centre’s data quality for this domain. Because antenatal diagnosis is the remit of obstetric units rather than cardiac units we have analysed the percentage of infants requiring treatment who were antenatally diagnosed according to Strategic Health Authority in England and also for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It comes as no surprise that there is a very wide variation. Hopefully this information will stimulate improvement in obstetric department’s fetal anomaly screening. It is likely that requests from obstetric units for fetal echo training from cardiologists will increase and hopefully areas with poor performance will be more likely to get funding for this from their PCTs/SHAs. We have forewarned SHAs and their equivalents in Wales, Scotland and N Ireland that the data is to be published.

Individual operator data

Having made individual operator data available to each centre early in the year via Lotus Notes, we have now made the necessary changes to the portal to allow access via the website – at the top of the screen you’ll find a new, password protected “Clinician access” tab. This will be made live by October 1st. To use this you will first need to set up your access rights.

Initial registration must be performed by your lead clinician: select the Request user link <https://ncasp1.ic.nhs.uk> or alternatively <http://www.ncasp.org.uk> and select the Congenital Heart Disease Portal link. You will then be asked to identify your centre’s main contact and specify the number of users required. Login in details with CCAD's terms and conditions will be sent via email to each user. For security reasons users are then asked to contact the helpdesk for the password. If you have any problems with registering please contact the CCAD helpdesk team (0845 300 6016 option2) or helpdesk@ccad.org.uk

Individuals will be able to see all results for all operators in their own centre. At present the data is in relatively simple form, broken down by the 48 procedures that we have chosen to analyse on the public part of the portal, with survival statistics for each year. We have not done funnel plots for each operator because of the relatively small numbers involved (which would lead to very wide confidence limits).

We hope this new facility will be useful for local audit and should save consultants' time when preparing data for appraisal and, in the future, for revalidation. Please feed back to us with your views on the content and presentation.

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