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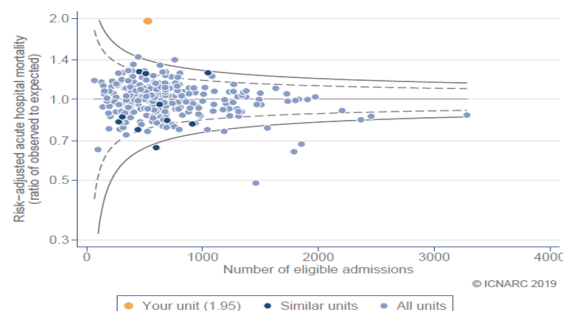
Lessons Learnt from Morbidity and Mortality Reviews in a Tertiary Centre Post-Anaesthetic Care Unit

For References
please scan...



Introduction

In 2019, the [Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre \(ICNARC\)](#) Case Mix Programme quality report identified a [high standardised mortality rate \(SMR\)](#) for Post-Anaesthetic Care Unit (PACU) patients in University Hospital of Wales (UHW) compared to other similar units nationally.



Post-anaesthetic Care Unit (PACU)

- [Elective](#) abdominal and thoracic surgical patients
- High-risk cohort ([2-5% predicted mortality](#))
- <72 hours of enhanced post-operative care

Objectives

1. To elucidate common themes to [rationalise the high SMR](#) identified within the PACU at UHW
2. To ascertain [meaningful learning points](#) to [inform](#) and [improve](#) future patient care

Results

528 patients admitted to PACU

16 patients died* (None in PACU)

Survived – 512

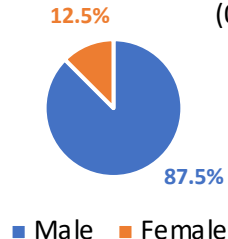
“Expected deaths” – 8

“Unexpected deaths” – 8

Demographics

Average Age
75 years
(57 – 84)

Average PACU Stay
1.5 days
(0.7 – 4.1)

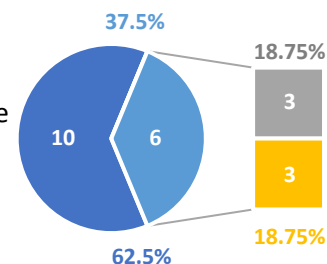


Key Emerging Themes

1

Non-elective admissions

- Elective
- Non-elective
- Urgent
- Scheduled



2

High predicted mortality

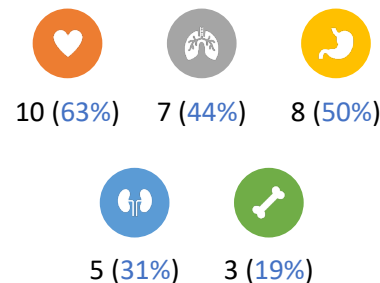
| | Mean % |
|-----------|----------------|
| APACHE II | 7.0 (1.2-41.0) |
| ICNARC | 4.7 (0.8-13.9) |

APACHE II

>5% (8, [50%](#)) >10% (3, [19%](#))

3

Patient co-morbidities



Methods

Study period = April 1st 2018 – 31st March 2019

Patients admitted to PACU who [died during their hospital admission*](#) were identified

Case notes were retrieved and reviewed using a standardised template documenting key learning points for analysis

Conclusions

Paucity of PACU mortality cases to elucidate conclusions from this one study however emerging themes include:

- A significant contribution of
 - [Non-elective](#) PACU admissions (ICU/emergency/urgent)
 - [High acuity](#) patients (APACHE II/ co-morbidities)
- Variation in [pre-operative assessment](#) and [optimisation](#) and [post-operative follow-up](#)

Next Steps...

- [Identifying at-risk groups](#) and developing interventions to minimise risk
- [Appropriate admissions](#) to PACU, where possible...
- Further [pre-operative optimisation](#) of patients
- PACU discharge [safety netting](#) and [follow-up](#)