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Development of pediatric neurosurgical unit in Kuwait

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Introduction: The aim of this study is to evaluate pediatric cases that have been operated on in Ibn Sina Hospital, Kuwait City, KW, during the last two years, emphasizing the marked increase of total number of patients, their outcome, complications and difficulties as well as some very rare disorders with which we were faced.

Methods: We used retrospective analysis and routine statistical methods in order to assess the local incidence of some disorders, the frequency of postop. complications and overall outcome.

Results: Significant increase in treated pediatric cases was noted. The local incidence of myelomeningocele and encephalocele cases is much greater than one cited in literature or elsewhere. Other spinal malformations, multiloculated hydrocephalus and CNS infections are also more frequent. We have noticed a worrying increase in infectious postop. complications especially after shunt surgery and other diversion procedures. We tried to realize reasons for that, to represent some really rare syndromes and diseases in children population and to study the difficulties and complications that we encountered in our practice.

Conclusion: In personnel and technical terms, Ibn Sina Hospital is becoming a regional center for the treatment of neurosurgical problems in children of significance not only for the State of Kuwait but also for the neighboring Gulf countries. Further support of ESPN experts is crucial for improving the quality of treatment.