

CLINICAL AUDIT IN PAEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY AND PAEDIATRIC HEART SURGERY – A REGIONAL APPROACH IN EASTERN-HUNGARY

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Objective. The prognosis of children with congenital heart disease has never been so favourable than nowadays. It is already known that significant deficiencies can occur during the treatment of congenital heart diseases. The method of clinical audit is suitable for the critical evaluation of the care of congenital heart diseases.

Methods. On developing the methods seven criteria were defined concerning diagnosis, treatment and outcome. The data of children (aged 0-18 years) living in Hajdú-Bihar County (Hungary) were analysed in details. The examined eight years (1994-2001) were divided into two epochs (94-97 and 98-01).

Results. In Epoch 1 (94-97) 28 infants (1 % of the newborns) died of congenital heart disease, one of the malformations was recognised post mortem. In Epoch 2 (98-01) 21 infants died (0.9 %); each heart disease was diagnosed before death. The postoperative mortality was 8.3% and 6.9 % respectively, but the difference was not statistically significant. The number of patients waiting for non-urgent repair reduced significantly: from 29 to 6.

Conclusions. The diagnosis of congenital heart diseases in time exceeded the international standards. On the other hand the access of invasive treatment was limited. The accessibility improved significantly by the end of the second epoch. The postoperative mortality in case of congenital heart diseases is comparable with international standards. The infant mortality owing to complex heart diseases did not changed significantly. Data supports the surgical repair of more complex heart diseases in infancy which is an already existing tendency in paediatric heart surgery.

