



AB131. SOH22ABS160. Changes in the management of peritonsillar abscess in the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) era

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Background: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has dramatically changed many aspects of ENT service provision. Since the start of the pandemic, new practice guidelines have been recommended and implemented throughout the country. A retrospective cohort study was carried out on the management of suspected peritonsillar abscesses referred to the ENT service in University Hospital Waterford (UHW) before and after the start of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

Methods: A retrospective audit was completed on the patients referred to the ENT Department in UHW with suspected quinsy in the six months before and after the implementation of new practice guidelines.

Results: Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, all patients with peritonsillar cellulitis or abscess were admitted for intravenous antibiotics and observation. Since the start of the pandemic, there have been fewer referrals with suspected peritonsillar abscesses as well as fewer admissions. Patients were successfully managed with aspiration or incision and drainage in the emergency department and discharged home with oral antibiotics. No significant change was seen

in the rate of representation or readmission.

Conclusions: This study suggests that the change in management of peritonsillar abscess or cellulitis, with a move away from admission for observation, is safe and effective.

Keywords: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); peritonsillar abscess; otolaryngology; quality improvement; quinsy

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Footnote

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Ethical Statement: The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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