

4th International Conference on Pediatrics and Neonatal Care

July 23-24, 2025 | Paris, France



Antonypillai A¹, Mettananda S², Weerasekara K P³

¹DGH Mullaitivu, Sri Lanka ²Colombo North Teaching Hospital, Sri Lanka ³Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children, Sri Lanka

Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of Paediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) among doctors in Lady Ridgeway Hospital for children, Sri Lanka

Background

Competence in Paediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) is crucial for improving outcomes in critically ill children. Understanding current skill levels among doctors caring for paediatric patients is essential to identify gaps and improve care. Despite PALS being integral to paediatric emergency response, limited data exist on the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of healthcare providers in Sri Lanka. This study aimed to assess these factors among doctors at a tertiary care hospital.

Methods

A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted at Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children, Sri Lanka. Participants included all grades of doctors: house officers, senior house officers, registrars, senior registrars, acting consultants, and consultants. Data were collected using a validated, structured questionnaire assessing demographics, PALS knowledge (good ≥80%, moderate 60–79%, poor <60%), attitudes, and practices.

Results

Of 153 doctors, only 5.9% had good PALS knowledge, while 48.4% showed moderate knowledge and 45.8% had poor knowledge. Although 80.4% had formal PALS training, knowledge was significantly associated with age, designation, years of experience, and training ($p < 0.005$), but not with time since training ($p = 0.802$). Senior registrars and experienced doctors performed better. Only 32% felt very confident performing PALS; 66% felt comfortable leading resuscitations. Reported barriers included limited emergency exposure (71.2%) and lack of hands-on opportunities (65.4%). Most (92.1%) used the ABCDE approach, and 84.9% followed PALS guidelines.

Conclusion

Most doctors demonstrated poor to moderate PALS knowledge. Regular simulation-based training, refresher courses, and structured mentorship are recommended to improve PALS competency and paediatric emergency care in Sri Lanka.

Biography

I am a researcher and clinician with a strong interest in Paediatrics and Neonatology. I have led multiple quality improvement (QI) projects, including the NeoCrUSS initiative on cranial ultrasound, presented at the REaSoN Neonatal meeting 2025. My studies on neonatal birth defects and congenital diaphragmatic hernia in Sri Lankan neonates were featured at the BAPM 2025 session. I also presented another QI work on improving equipment readiness and neonatal sepsis management at the 2025 Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians Congress. This abstract represents my ongoing commitment to evaluating PALS knowledge among doctors in Sri Lanka, highlighting the need to enhance paediatric emergency care standard.