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| Infective Endocarditis in the Te Manawa Taki Region: Demographics and Burden of disease |
| **Aim:**  Minimal data exist on infective endocarditis (IE) in New Zealand. Waikato Hospital treats patients across the Te Manawa Taki region. We aim to better understand the epidemiology, management, and outcomes of patients referred.  **Method:**  We retrospectively analyzed health records for patients admitted to Waikato Hospital from January 2016 to November 2023 with a diagnosis of Infective Endocarditis code at discharge. Cases were defined using the 2023 Modified Dukes Criteria and we collected 85 variables.  **Results:**  We identified 393 episodes of IE (251 definite IE) from 371 individuals (71% male, median age 65 (IQR 54-76) years, 32% identified as Māori) with up-trending cases over the years. Prosthetic valves were involved in 26% of patients and 43% of admissions were transfers from other hospitals. Significant risk factors were intravenous drug-use (4%), rheumatic heart disease (7%), eGFR<15mL/min (9%) and cardiac implantable electronic devices (7%). Mean Euroscore II was 14.61±0.71%. The most common pathogen was Staphylococcus aureus (42%). Surgery was performed in 32% of patients. Infectious Disease service input was sought for all, whilst cardiothoracic and cardiology input was on request. Median admission duration was 15 (IQR 10-24) days. One year readmission rate for any cause was 38%, mortality was 30% and 29% of all episodes required ICU admission.  **Conclusion:**  Comparable to international data, patients treated for IE at Waikato hospital have significant morbidity and mortality rates. Patients often require surgery, intensive care and have notable readmission rates. This baseline assessment will provide a comparator for planned prospective analysis. |