Impact of London 2012 Summer Olympic Games on Acute Medical Referrals to a DGH

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INTRODUCTION

Viewing televised sport has been linked to increased presentation of certain medical conditions. We investigated the impact of London 2012 Summer Olympics on acute medical referrals to a UK DGH.

METHODS

Using an electronic list of acute medical referrals, we compared 17 Olympic days (July 27-August 12) to 34 peri-Olympic days (July 9-27 & August 13-28).

1° endpoint - total N° of referrals
2° endpoint - N° of cardiac referrals
- exacerbation of existing diagnoses
- rate of re-referrals within 28 days

FIGURES 1 and 2

The Maidstone Hospital Patient spreadsheet is accessible via any hospital computer. Recording times of key events allows sophisticated analysis.

RESULTS

1351 patients were referred during the study period - 431 on Olympic days and 920 during the peri-Olympic period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Olympic</th>
<th>Peri-Olympic</th>
<th>P</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Referrals</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>920</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Referrals per day</td>
<td>25±8</td>
<td>27±9</td>
<td>N/S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac referrals</td>
<td>107 (24.8%)</td>
<td>241 (26.2%)</td>
<td>N/S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exacerbated conditions</td>
<td>147 (34.1%)</td>
<td>299 (32.5%)</td>
<td>N/S</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 day re-referrals</td>
<td>75 (8.2%)</td>
<td>36 (8.3%)</td>
<td>N/S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 1

CONCLUSIONS

London 2012 Olympics had no effect on acute medical take at a single UK hospital.

Electronic patient lists offer benefits beyond improved communication and patient safety.

Through pooling electronic patient list data with regional & national partners, we aim to analyse trends undetectable at individual hospitals.

REFERENCES


The authors have no conflict of interest.

Data from Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust