Trends in hospital admissions for sickle cell disease in England

Sirs,

We thank Radoslav Latinovic and Allison Streetly for their insightful comments on our paper on trends in admissions for sickle cell disease (SCD). We agree with Latinovic and Streetly that more detailed analysis of admission patterns would be helpful in gaining a better understanding of the quality and efficiency of services for people with SCD. We are currently carrying out an individual-level analysis of admissions for SCD using linked data to examine factors such as the impact of repeat admissions on overall admission rates for SCD. We also agree with Latinovic and Streetly that the quality of local services will be important in influencing admission rates for SCD, as shown by their comment that South-East London, the area with the highest birth prevalence of SCD and an area noted for the quality of its services for the management of SCD, does not have the primary care trusts with the highest admission rates. Patients’ perceptions of the quality of local services and the quality of their ambulatory care management may also influence their risk of SCD crises and other complications, and hence their risk of hospital admission. Finally, we thank Latinovic and Streetly for their suggestions for more sophisticated analyses, such as the impact of cohort effects. Such analyses will become more feasible in the future through the availability of new NHS data sets that can link data on individual patients across different parts of the health system, and also with external data sets such as mortality records.

References


Ghida AlJuburi
PhD Student, Department of Primary Care & Public Health, Imperial College London, London W6 8RP, UK.
E-mail: g.aljuburi07@imperial.ac.uk, aljuburi@hotmail.com

Azeem Majeed
Professor of Primary Care, Department of Primary Care & Public Health, Imperial College London, London W6 8RP, UK
doi:10.1093/pubmed/fdt005