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Graduated from University of Khartoum in December 1994 and did her internship in Sudan and Saudi Arabia and then moved to UK and did her PLAB exam followed by MRCPCH parts I and II. She trained at Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust rotating between the Royal Victoria Infirmary and Newcastle General Hospital, and worked at Stockton -on-Tees and North Tyneside hospitals. She is practicing paediatrics with special interest in paediatric neurology.

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Abstract

Paediatric neurology service in Sudan: Current situation and future challenges

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Children with neurological problems were historically seen in adult neurology clinics by our dedicated teachers and professors since the 1950s. The amalgamation with adult services, excellent as it was, denies this group the specialized care they deserve.

The service was then extended by establishing specialized child neurology clinics at Saad Abualila Hospital, followed by Soba University Hospital, and Gaafar Ibn Oaf Children's Hospital. There is a separate service provision in Medani (Wad Madani). That is the only clinic in Aljazirah State. These clinics serve the whole of Sudan. Gaafar Ibn Oaf Children's Hospital serves as the main inpatient tertiary referral centre for all paediatric specialties including a dedicated paediatric neurology ward whereby acute services are delivered.

The numbers of patients are exponentially increasing and the average number seen per clinic is now up to 60 patients referred from all over Sudan. We are also now seeing patients referred from neighboring countries as well such as Chad, Eritrea and South Sudan where facilities for neurological investigations are limited. The total number of paediatric neurology patients seen over the last 8 years was 9600 Patients at Saad Abualila Hospital alone. The paediatric neurology load is apparently on the rise necessitating the provision of adequate supportive and multidisciplinary team services. This paper highlights the current situation, the challenges encountered and the future goals. The human resources as well as the availability of affordable necessary investigations and essential drug provision are our main challenges. There is a dire need for team and capacity building, research implementation and organization of outreach clinics.

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