

SUMMARY

The data regarding factors contributing to care seeking patterns in diarrhoeal diseases of children aged 1-5 years admitted to paediatric units in Sri Lanka is meager.

A number of studies have investigated care seeking behaviours for childhood diarrhoea in developing countries. In Sri Lanka little information is available on care seeking pattern for diarrhoeal diseases. The study was therefore undertaken to identify some factors responsible for care seeking patterns.

The study location was the paediatric unit of General Hospital, Matara and the study period was from 1st of August to 30th of September 1994. 204 cases were included in the study.

The study found that following variables are having significant association with care seeking pattern. (1) Maternal knowledge about diarrhoea (2) Age of the mother (3) Duration of the illness (4) distance from home to the health facility.

This study also showed that majority of the mothers preferred General Practitioner for initial treatment while analysis of second, third and fourth preferences shows that majority had gone to a government hospitals.