Background/Objectives

- A myriad of polio-like viruses causing a similar to polio disability.
- Acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) is an emerging worldwide public health threat.
- Four cases of AFP admitted to acute inpatient pediatric rehabilitation unit.
- We observed common characteristics of AFP.
- Our case series demonstrates impact of AFP on the children development and habilitation.

Description

- Presenting symptoms: Fever, respiratory and gastrointestinal symptoms.
- Asthma was the most common underlying illness.
- Neurological symptoms: Asymmetric weakness, hyporeflexia, intact sensory exam, dysphagia and dysarthria.
- Diagnostic work up: Gray matter involvement on spinal cord MRI, variability of electrodiagnostic and CSF findings, positive serology for enterovirus D68.
- Treatment: IVIG, IVIG and steroids with minimal improvements.
- Rehabilitation course: Significant functional debility, prolonged rehabilitation and habilitation due to slow motor recovery, resolved symptoms of dysphagia and dysarthria.

Significance

- The morbidity and disability impact on children with AFP is significant.
- CDC defines AFP as acute flaccid limb weakness along with gray matter abnormality on spinal cord MRI.
- No significant change in clinical outcome with treatment (Plasma exchange, IVIG, antiviral therapy, and glucocorticoids).
- Pediatric healthcare professionals should:
  a) Understand epidemiology of AFP.
  b) Develop a uniform guideline on diagnosis and treatment.
  c) Implement optimal rehabilitative care options for these extremely involved children due to slow recovery and long-term complications.

References