Hybrid Clinic

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Introduction. Given the extensive nature of our area of expertise, the increasing number of patients undergoing Hybrid Procedure for Hypoplastic Heart Syndrome in our Centre and the need of a and the need for careful clinical follow up was created a communication network that allows the parents and pediatrician to immediately communicate with us through the creation of a "Hybrid Clinic".

Methods. The project Hybrid Clinic is composed of four phases consisting in the creation of Hybrid Equipe composed by multidisciplinary team consisting of a cardiologist, pediatrician, nurse practitioners; the definition of clinical alarm bells; hospital monitoring with a phase of education and training of the parents performed by the nurse practitioner and a phase of home monitoring.

During the hospital monitoring the parents learn how to check saturation through the use of a dedicated oximeter portable that is assigned for the duration of the monitoring.

Besides the routine outpatient appointment, where we perform the complete cardiac evaluation and overall assessment of the newborn / infant, including nutritional status, anthropometric parameters and assessment of the degree of neurological development we created a dedicated telephone line with a telephone appointment weekly where the parent will confront the healthcare workers on the overall condition of the child.

In detail, during the telephone appointment, the nurse practitioner register on a dedicated database anthropometric parameters, the nutritional capacity and any changes arising in the patient. In case of occurrence of "alarm bells" we decide the need for specialized assessment. A dedicated mailbox was created and checked daily by dedicated staff to which parents/pediatrician can send updates related to weights, growth curves, blood tests / instrumental performed at home or simple requests for clarification.

Conclusion. The creation of the Hybrid Clinic improved outcomes related to this already complex pathology leading to the centralization of the patient and the family. We strongly believe that such an approach for complex heart disease represent an example in the clinical scenario of other pediatric cardiac centre.