

senior, attended this meeting which occurred once a month in term time. Initially it took place within our educational programme, later audit had its own programme and occupied two hours in whichever half-day it was timetabled. To begin with there was no minute of the meeting; a record of the meeting was made by the Sub-Directorate Audit Convenor which was submitted to the Trust Audit Committee.

The most common method of presentation of data was for each consultant's registrar to present the work of the previous month and to draw particular attention to any patients where there had been death or serious complication. This led to a discussion of those events which sought to establish whether any modification of clinical practice would be beneficial. Specific topics were also audited such as wound infection. The annual statistics were usually presented to this meeting for discussion.

In this forum there was emphasis on the review of individual cases, but series of patients were reviewed when 'topics' were audited, or annual statistics presented.

2. PAEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGICAL AUDIT

Paediatric cardiological audit was an activity undertaken principally by the paediatric cardiologists and paediatric cardiac surgeons together with the radiologists, the nurses, the catheter lab technicians and anaesthetists when they were able to attend; thus it was always multi-disciplinary in character. The meeting was once a month at lunchtime for about an hour and a half and in general a topic was reviewed. A record was made of the meetings by the Audit Convenor for Paediatric Cardiology and submitted to the Trust Audit Committee. The topics presented would include such items as the results of surgery for total anomalous pulmonary venous drainage, results of operations on children in the first year of life, and of course included cardiological topics and not only surgical ones. Following the publication of the contents of a paediatric cardiological audit in Private Eye, this audit programme lapsed for a time.