RESEARCH ARTICLE

MODELLING TIME TO DEATH OF UNDER-FIVE PNEUMONIA PATIENTS IN TERCHA GENERAL HOSPITAL, DAWRO ZONE, SOUTH WEST ETHIOPIA

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ABSTRACT

Pneumonia is number one largest infectious cause of death in children worldwide, kills about 2,500 children every day. It is most prevalent in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. In Ethiopia pneumonia is a leading single disease killing under-five children. The aim of this study was to examine the risk factors of time to death of under-five pneumonia patients in Tercha General Hospital. Retrospective study was conducted by taking 281 under-five pneumonia patients. The Nonparametric method, semiparametric or Cox PH model and parametric survival models were used to examine the survival rate of under-five pneumonia patients. The results of this study revealed that out of 281 participants in the study 16.73% were died and 83.27% were alive at the end of the study. Based on AIC value the Weibull model is selected as the good model to fit pneumonia dataset compared to candidate models. The findings of this study implied that Sex, residence, Season of Diagnosis, Comorbidity, Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), Patient refer status and Patient to Nurse ratio (PNR) were major factors related to survival time of under-five pneumonia patients. The patients from urban and patients admitted to hospital when patient nurse ratio (PNR) was small were prolong timing death of under-five pneumonia patients, while Spring and summer season, comorbidity and Severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were shorten timing of death of under-five pneumonia patients. The concerned body should work on the identified factors to decrease the death of under-five pneumoniapatients.

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INTRODUCTION

Pneumonia is an acute illness in which the alveolar air spaces of the lung become inflamed and filled with fluid. It is the single largest infectious cause of death in children worldwide and accounts for 16% of all deaths of children under five years old and also it affects children and families everywhere, but is most prevalent in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa (WHO, 2016).It can be caused by bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection as well as by noninfectious agents and Most severe cases of pneumonia are caused by bacteria, of which the most important are Streptococcus pneumonia (pneumococcus) and Haemophilus influenza (Williams, 2002). The mortality rates of children under the age of five years in most developing countries ranges from 60 to 100 per 1000 live births, one fifth of these deaths are due to pneumonia (WHO, 2016).According to estimates from the World Health Organization Pneumonia kills about 2,500 children every day and more than 150 million

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cases of pneumonia occur in children under-five in each year, of which 20 million cases require hospitalization (Leung, 2016). Sub-Saharan Africa takes the lead in having half of its under-five deaths resulting from pneumonia compared to other regions. Also, regional disparities exist in the percentage of under-five deaths resulting from pneumonia with 5% of deaths occurring in developed regions and 17% of deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa (Liu, 2016). In Ethiopia 88 in 1,000 children under age 5 die before their fifth birthday from those death Acute respiratory infection (ARI) and particularly pneumonia, accounts for 18% (CSA, 2012).Pneumonia is the major killer of children under the age of five years than any other diseases known to affect children, more than the death shares of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Malaria and Measles combined (WHO, 2016). In 2016 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that there is 1 out of 6 childhood deaths were due to pneumonia globally in 2015 (UNICEF, 2016).Nearly 50% of pneumonia deaths take place in only six densely populated and poorest countries: India, Nigeria, Democratic republic of Congo, Pakistan, Angola and Ethiopia (UNICEF, 2014). In Ethiopia pneumonia is a leading single disease killing under-five aged children and it was estimated that 3,370,000 children encounter pneumonia

annually which contributes to 20% of all causes of death killing over 40,000 under-five children every year (Fischer W., 2013). Several studies have been conducted to identify important risk factors of under-five mortality due to Pneumonia by using logistic regression and Multi-level logistic regression models (Tariku T., 2017), (Crighton et al., 2007). But; those statistical methods are not capable to consider the survival time of the patients in the hospital; Because Multi-level Logistic regression and Logistic regression model focus on the status of under-five pneumonia patients but not on the survival time. Due to these the researcher introduced another model that explores the important risk factors of under-five child survival time due to pneumonia. Survival analysis is used to investigate the survival time of patients and to consider the censoring observations in this study. Kaplan Meier curves and log rank test were used to compare the survival experience of different category of patients, Cox PH model and Accelerating failure time (AFT) models were used to fit dataset. Parametric survival models are statistically more powerful than nonparametric or semi-parametric models (Klein, 2005). A survival analysis helps us to understand the distribution of failure time which is often described by using Weibull, Log-logistic and lognormal distributions. This study is, therefore, aimed to investigate the survival time of under-five children hospitalized due to pneumonia observed at Tercha General hospital and identify risk factors associated with under-five children survival time due to pneumonia.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area and study Design: The study was conducted in Dawro Zone Tercha General Hospital around 491 km away from Addis Ababa capital city of Ethiopia. The survival data used for this study was obtained from Tercha General Hospital. During the study period, the pediatric registration chart and the patient's identification cards were used to select the variables in the study by trained clinicians. All under -five children registered due to pneumonia with full information in the specified time interval of study were included and patients less than one month was excluded from the study. The response variable in this study was the survival time (time to death) of under-five pneumonia patients measured in days from the date of admission until the date of patients' death or discharge from hospital. The status variable is coded as 1 if an event occur (death) and 0 for censored in the given time interval. Explanatory variables considered in this study were listed below in Table 2.1 with their corresponding codes and those variables were selected based on the previous studies conducted at Hawassa city by (Tariku T., 2017) , at Tanzania Lake Zone's public hospitals by (Kristina L., 2017) and at Jimma university specialized hospital by (Firaol B., 2017).

Non-Parametric Survival Method: The Kaplan-Meier (KM) estimator is the standard non-parametric estimator of the survival function S(t) proposed by Kaplan and Meier (1958) which is not based on the actual observed event and censoring times, but rather on the ordered in which events occur. Let ordered survival times are given by $0 \le t_1 \le t_2 \le t_j \le \infty$, then:

$$\hat{S}(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } t < ti \\ \prod_{t \text{ist}}(1 - \frac{d_i}{n_i}), & \text{if } t \ge t_i \end{cases}$$

(2.1)

Where: d_i= number of under-five children died due to pneumonia at time t_i

n_i= number of under-five children with pneumonia at risk before time t_i

Cox PH Regression Model: The non-parametric method does not control for covariates and it requires categorical predictors. One of very popular model in survival data analysis is the Cox PH model which is introduced by (Cox D., 1972)and is a broadly applicable and the most widely used method of survival analysis.

A model based on the exponential distribution may be parameterized as follows:

$$h_i(t,x,\beta) = \exp(\alpha + \beta_1 X_{i1} + \beta_2 X_{i2} + \cdots + \beta_k X_{ik}) = \exp(\alpha)(\beta^t X)$$

(2.2)

In this case the constant α represents the log-baseline hazard since $\log h_i(t) = \alpha$ when all the x's are zero. The Cox PH model is a semi-parametric model where the baseline hazard $\alpha(t)$ is allowed to vary with time.

$$h_i(t,x,\beta) = h_0(t)\exp(X_i^t\beta) \cdot$$

(2.3)

Where: $h_0(t)$ is the baseline hazard function; X_i is a vector of covariates and β is a vector of parameters for fixed effects. There different ways of checking the assumption of proportional hazard models from those the researcher used the graphical method which is scatter plots using the Schoenfeld residual (Schoenfeld, 1982)to verify that the model fit the data well or not. Under the proportional hazard assumption for the respective covariate, a scatter plot of Schoenfeld residuals against event times is expected to scatter in a nonsystematic way about the zero line, and the polygon (Lowess curve) connecting the values of the smoothed residuals should have a zero slope and cross the zero line several times (Klein J., 2005). If this plot shows some trend the assumption is violated.

Parametric survival models: The Cox proportional hazards model, by contrast, is not a fully parametric model. Rather it is a semi-parametric model because even if the regression parameters (the betas) are known, the distribution of the outcome remains unknown. The baseline survival (or hazard) function is not specified in a Cox model. A parametric survival model is one in which survival time (the outcome) is assumed to follow a known distribution. Many parametric models are acceleration failure time (AFT) models in which survival time is modeled as a function of predictor variables and the parametric survival models used in this studies are presented in Table 2.2 below (Klein, 2005).

Model assessment: Every step during model fitting uses the upcoming statistical procedures and later at the end the investigator checks all the assumptions needed for the model. In these study the Adequacy of Parametric Baselines and the Cox-Snell Residuals plots are used to check the goodness of fits.

Checking the Adequacy of Parametric Baselines: After fitting the model, the model diagnostic checking is used to know how effective the model is in describing the outcome variable. This is referred to as goodness of fit. The graphical methods can be used to check if a parametric distribution fits

the observed data. Model with the Weibull baseline has a property that the log (-log(S(t)) is linear with the log of time, where $S(t) = \exp(-\lambda t^p)$. Hence, $\log(-\log(S(t))) = \log(\lambda) + \rho \log(t)$. This property allows a graphical evaluation of the appropriateness of a Weibull model by plotting $\log(-\log(\hat{S}(t)))$ versus $\log(t)$ where $\hat{S}(t)$ is Kaplan-Meier survival estimate. Log-logistic baseline can graphically be evaluated by plotting

$\log\left(\dfrac{S(t)}{1-S(t)}\right)$ versus log (time) where $\hat{S}(t)$ is Kaplan-Meier survival estimate. If the plot is straight line, log-logistic distribution fitted the given dataset well. If the plot $\Phi^{-1}[1 - S(t)]$ against log (t) is linear, the Log-normal distribution is appropriate for the given data set (Datwyler and Stucki, 2011).

The Cox- Snell Residuals: The Cox-Snell residuals method is used to any parametric model and the residual plots can be applied to check the goodness of fit of the model. For the parametric regression problem, analogs of the semi-parametric residual plots can be made with a redefinition of the various residuals to incorporate the parametric form of the baseline hazard rates (Klein and Moeschberger, 2003). The Cox-Snell residual for the jth individual with observed survival time t_j is given by:

$$r_j = \hat{H}(T_j/X_j) = -\log \hat{S}(T_j/X_j)$$

(2.4)

Where: $\hat{H}$ and $\hat{S}$ are the estimated values of the cumulative hazard and survivor function of the jth subject at time t_j respectively.

Model Comparison and Selection: The fitted models were compared based on the comparison criteria and on the model adequacy checking methods and Akaikie informative criterion(AIC) proposed as an informative criterion (AIC) statistic to compare models with different number of parameters. For each model the value is computed as: $AIC = -2\log\text{likelihood} + 2(k + c)$, where: k is the number of parameters and c is the number of model specific distributional parameters. The preferable model is the one with the lowest value of the AIC (Munda M., 2012).

RESULTS

Descriptive Statistics: Descriptive statistics is the beginning of any statistical analysis before proceeding to more complicated models. In this study, a total of 281 under-five pneumonia patients were considered. Among those patients 234(83.27%) had been alive or censored and 47(16.73%) were died at the end of the study. Based on Table 3.1 below Out of 281 under-five pneumonia patients included in the study, 44.84% of the patients were females and 55.16% were males, the death proportion for female was 42.55% which is lower than that of male patients which is 57.45%. Considering age groups included in the study 49.82%, 22.06%, 11.39%, 10.32% and 6.41% of patients were from age group 1-11, 12-23, 24-35, 36-47 and 48-59 respectively and the death proportion for the age group were 44.68%, 23.40%, 14.89%, 10.64% and 6.38% respectively. Of the total patients 69.04% were from rural and 30.96% from the urban. Death proportions of patients with residences were 72.34% and 27.66% respectively. Out of the total patients in the study, 28.83% were admitted in autumn, 11.74% were admitted in winter,

31.67% were admitted in spring and 27.76% were admitted in summer. The death proportions of patients in autumn, winter, spring and summer patients were 14.89%, 12.77%, 34.04% and 38.30% respectively.

Non-parametric Survival Analysis: Non-parametric methods in survival analysis is very important to visualize the survival time of patients under different groups of covariates; the Kaplan-Meier Estimateis used to compare the survival rates of two or more groups of under-five pneumonia patients. According to Figure 3.1 (b) below, survival probability for patients who were come from urban had better survival time than those who were come from rural. The K-M survival time plot for sex in Figure 3.1 (a) below, showed that female patients had better survival time than male patients.

Cox PH Regression Model Analysis: In any data analysis it is always a great idea to do some univariable analysis before proceeding to more complicated models. Single covariate Cox proportional hazards model analysis is used to screen out potentially important variables before directly included in the multivariable analysis. The predictor's such as sex, residence, season of diagnosis, comorbidity, severe acute malnutrition (SAM), patient refer status and patient nurse ratio (PNR) were passed the first filtration of variables for multiple covariates analysis. In the cox PH final modelsex, residence, season of diagnosis, co-morbidity, severe acute malnutrition (SAM), patient refer status and patient nurse ratio (PNR) were significantly associated with survival time of under-five pneumonia patient.

Statistical Test forProportional Hazards Model Assumptions: Based on the figure 3.2 belowScaled Schoenfeld residual plotsthe assumption of cox PH model is not satisfied for two explanatory variables and is strengthened by the global test p-value which is less than 0.05. Therefore; the parametric survival models are used.

Accelerated Failure Time Model(AFT): When Cox PH assumptions were not satisfied, alternatively parametric AFT models were used instead of the Cox PH model(Klein J., 2005). Therefore; For survival time of under-five pneumonia patients data, multivariable AFT models of Weibull, log-logistic and log-normal distribution were fitted by including all the covariates those are significant in the univariable analysis at 5% level of significance. To compare the efficiency of different models AIC is used. A model having the minimum AIC and BIC value were selected as good model. Accordingly, from the Table 3.2 above Weibull AFT model has (AIC=334.128) which is selected as good model to fit survival time of under-five pneumonia data set. The final model results are shown as follows:

According to the Table 3.3 above Under the Weibull AFT model, when the effect of other factor keep fixed, the estimated acceleration factor for male patient is estimated to be 0.878 with (95% CI: 0.782, 0.987). The confidence interval for the acceleration factor did not include one and p-value is small (p=0.029). This indicates that male patients have less survival time than female patients or in the other way female patients survived 12.2% longer than male patients. The acceleration factors for patients whose residence was urban were estimated to be 1.158 with (95% CI: 1.010, 1.328). The confidence interval for the acceleration factor did not include one and p-value is small (p=0.035).

Table 2.1: Description of variables in the study

	Variables	Coding for Categorical variables		Description
1	Sex	Female= 0	male = 1	Sex of children
2	Age	1-11 = 0 12-23 = 1 24-35 = 2	36-47 =3 48-59 =4	Age of children
3	Residence	Rural = 0	Urban =1	Residence of children
4	Season	Autumn =0 Spring = 2	Winter =1 Summer =3	Season of Diagnosis
5	Co-morbidity	No = 0	Yes =1	Co-morbidity(CAP complicated)
6	SAM	No = 0	Yes =1	Sever Acute Malnutrition
7	Treatment types	Penicillin =0 Ampicillin = 2	Ceftriaxone =1 Combined =3	Treatment types taken at time of Diagnosis
8	Patients refer status	No = 0	Yes =1	Patient refer status from other health center
9	Weight	Weight of the children		
10	Bed Occupancy Rate (BOR)	The percentage of official beds occupied by hospital Inpatients for a given period of time; $BOR= \frac{(\text{Total length of hospital stay in a given month})*}{30\times\text{Number of beds in that month}}$		
11	Patient: Physician Ratio (PPhR)	Ratio of patient to physician counted in a given month; $PPhR = \frac{\text{Number of patients admitted in a given month}}{\text{Number of physician on service in a given month}}$		
12	Patient: Nurse Ratio (PNR)	Ratio of patient to nurse counted in a month $PNR = \frac{\text{Number of patients admitted in a given month}}{\text{Number of nurse on service in a given month}}$		

* Length of Hospital stay is the number of calendar days from the days of patient admission to the day of discharged/died.

Table 2.2. Parametric distributions for the baseline hazards used in these studies were:

AFT models	f(t)	S(t)	h(t)
Weibull	$\lambda\rho t^{\rho-1}\exp(-\lambda t^{\rho})$	$\exp(-\lambda t^{\rho})$	$\lambda\rho t^{\rho-1}$
Lognormal	$\frac{1}{t\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}}\exp\left(-\frac{[\log(t)-\mu]^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$	$1-\Phi\left(\frac{\log(t)-\mu}{\sigma}\right)$	$\frac{\Phi\left(\frac{\log(t)}{\sigma}\right)}{\left(\frac{\log(t)}{\sigma}\right)\sigma t}$
Log-logistic	$\frac{\rho t^{\rho-1}\lambda^{\rho}}{(1+(\lambda t)^{\rho})^2}$	$\frac{1}{1+(\lambda t)^{\rho}}$	$\frac{\rho t^{\rho-1}\lambda^{\rho}}{1+(\lambda t)^{\rho}}$

Table 3.1. Descriptive Summary of under-five Pneumonia Data in TGH (2016-2017)

|		Status of Patient		
Variable	Category (codes)	Number of Event (%)	Number of Censored (%)	Total (%)
Sex	Female(0)	20(42.55%)	106(45.30%)	126(44.84%)
	Male(1)	27(57.45%)	128(54.70%)	155(55.16%)
Age	1-11 (0)	21(44.68%)	119(50.85%)	140(49.82%)
	12-23 (1)	11(23.40%)	51(21.79%)	62(22.06%)
	24-35 (2)	7(14.89%)	25(10.68%)	32(11.39%)
	36-47 (3)	5(10.64%)	24(10.26%)	29(10.32%)
	48-59 (4)	3(6.38%)	15(6.41%)	18(6.41%)
Residence	Rural (0)	34(72.34%)	160(68.38%)	194(69.04%)
	Urban (1)	13(27.66%)	74(31.62%)	87(30.96%)
Season of Diagnosis	Autumn (0)	7(14.89%)	74(31.62%)	81(28.83%)
	Winter (1)	6(12.77%)	27(11.54%)	33(11.74%)
	Spring (2)	16(34.04%)	73(31.20%)	89 (31.67%)
	Summer (3)	18(38.30%)	60(25.64%)	78(27.76%)
Co-morbidity	No (0)	33(70.21%)	137(58.55%)	170(60.50%)
	Yes (1)	14(29.79%)	97 (41.45%)	111(39.50%)
Sever Acute Malnutrition (SAM)	No (0)	30(63.83%)	195(83.33%)	225(80.07%)
	Yes (1)	17(36.17%)	39(16.67%)	56(19.93%)
Treatment types taken by patients	Penicillin (0)	8(17.02%)	45(19.23%)	53(18.86%)
	Ceftriaxone (1)	9(19.15%)	36(15.38%)	45(16.01%)
	Ampicillin (2)	14(29.79%)	78(33.33%)	92(32.74%)
	Combined (3)	16(34.04%)	75(32.05%)	91(32.38%)
Patient refer status	No (0)	40(85.11%)	172(73.50%)	212(75.44%)
	Yes (1)	7(14.89%)	62(26.50%)	69(24.56%)
Continuous variables		Mean	Standard deviation	
	Weight of patient	9.626	3.253	
	BOR	0.513	0.080	
	PPhR	13.900	2.764	
	PNR	3.420	1.130	
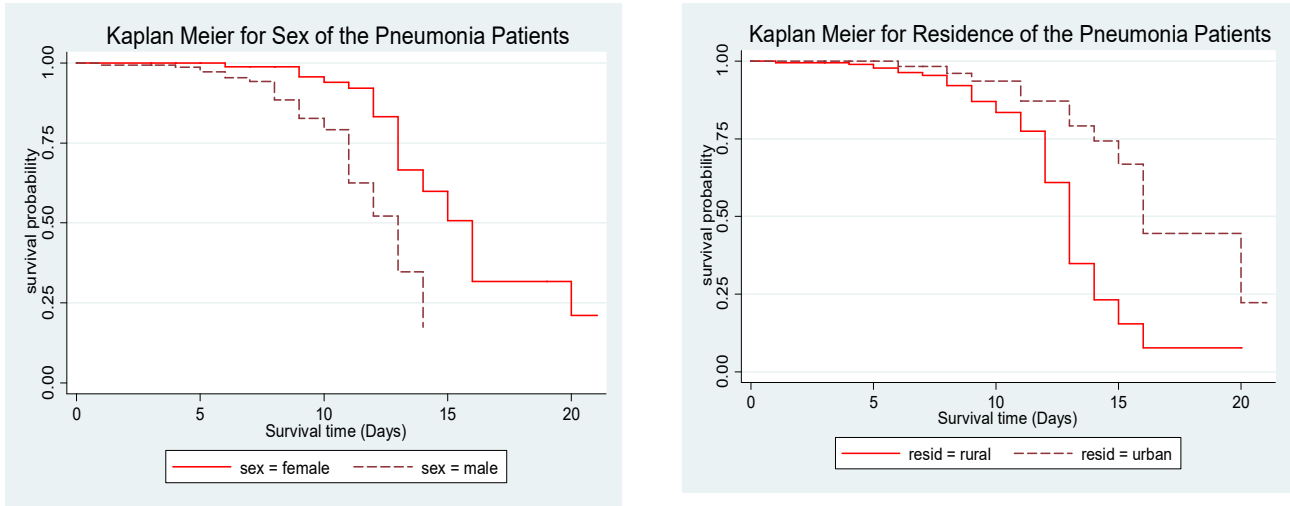
Figure 3.1. a) K-M plot for Sex of patient b) K-M plot for Residence of patient
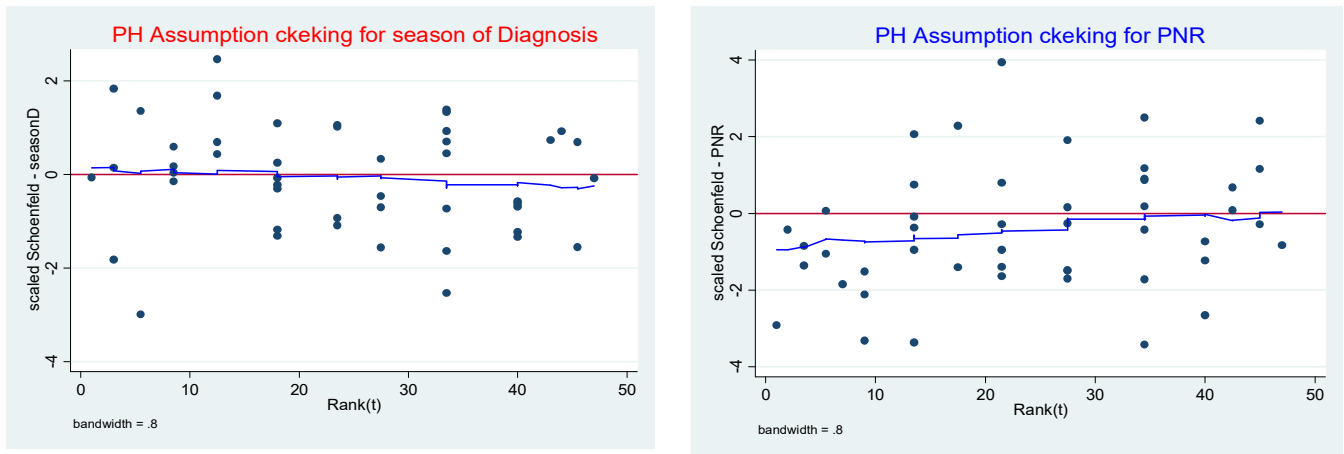

Figure3.2. (a)The Scaled Schoenfeld residuals plot for season of Diagnosis (b) For PNR

Table 3.2. Classical AFT models Comparison

Model types	Log-Likelihood	AIC	BIC
Weibull	-146.0641	334.1282	324.8574
Lognormal	-160.5716	363.1433	335.6928
Log-logistic	-149.9426	341.8852	331.0583

AIC=Akaike Information criteria, BIC=Bayesian Information criteria

Table 3.3. Final Multivariable Analysis for Weibull AFT model

| Covariates	Categories	$\hat{\beta}$	SE	z	sign	γ	(95% CI) γ
Sex	*female*	Ref	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------
	male	-0.130	0.060	-2.18	0.029*	0.878	(0.782, 0.987)
Residence	*rural*	Ref	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------
	urban	0.147	0.070	2.11	0.035*	1.158	(1.010, 1.328)
Season of Diagnosis	*Autumn*	Ref	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------
	Winter	-0.060	0.115	-0.52	0.602	0.942	(0.751, 1.181)
	Spring	-0.169	0.088	-2.07	0.003*	0.845	(0.720, 0.991)
	Summer	-0.207	0.088	-2.35	0.001*	0.813	(0.683, 0.966)
Co-Morbidity	*No*	Ref	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------
	Yes	-0.127	0.068	-1.88	0.007*	0.881	(0.640, 0.916)
SAM	*No*	Ref	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------
	Yes	-0.139	0.066	-2.09	0.036*	0.870	(0.764, 0.901)
Patient refer status	*No*	Ref	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------
	Yes	0.174	0.070	2.48	0.013*	1.190	(1.038, 1.366)
PNR		0.091	0.037	2.44	0.015*	1.095	(1.018, 1.177)
Intercept		2.316	0.295	7.86	0.000*		(1.738, 2.893)
Scale= 0.189							
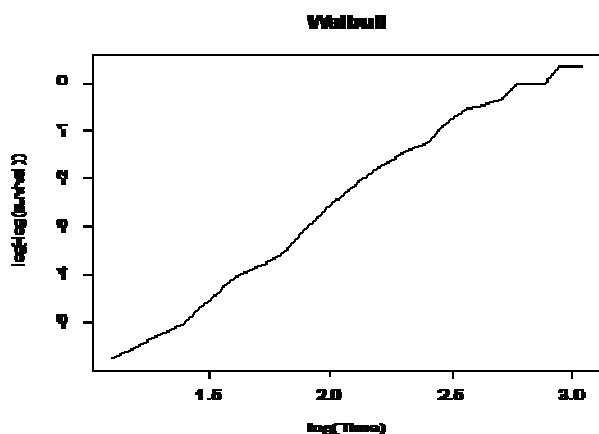
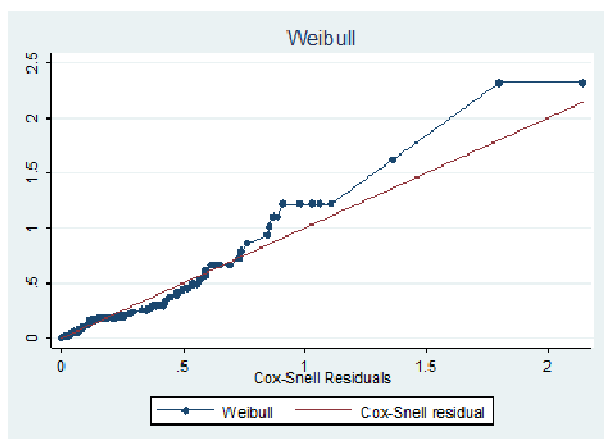**Figure 3.3. Weibull baseline distribution plot**

Figure 3.3. Cox- Snell residual plots for Weibull

This indicates that patients whose residence was urban had prolonged survival time than patients from rural residence at 5% level of significance. Patients diagnosed at spring season and summer season acceleration factor were 0.845 and 0.813 with (95% CI: 0.720, 0.991 and 0.683, 0.966) respectively. The confidence intervals for both acceleration factor did not include one and p-values were small (p=0.003 and 0.001) respectively. Patients who were diagnosed at spring and summer season had less survival time than patients who was diagnosed at autumn season. The acceleration factor for patients suffered co-morbidity were estimated to be 0.881 with (95% CI: 0.640, 0.916). The confidence interval did not includes one and p-values is small (p=0.007). This implies that patients who were not suffered co-morbidity had longer survival time than patients who were suffered co-morbidity. Patients who were not suffered severe acute malnutrition (SAM) had longer survival time than patients who were suffered severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Acceleration factor for patient nurse ratio was estimated to be 1.095 with (95% CI: 1.018, 1.177). The confidence interval did not include one and p-value is small (p=0.015). This indicates that patient nurse ratio had significant effect on the survival time of patients at 5% level of significance.

Model Diagnostic: To check whether the fitted model adequately describes the data or not two graphical methods were used Adequacy of Parametric Baselines plot and Cox-Snell residual plot. From the figure 3.3 and 3.4above the Weibull baseline distribution plot and Cox-Snell residual plot makes approximately the straight line through the origin than log-logistic and lognormal. So this plot suggests that Weibull AFT model is an appropriate model.

DISCUSSION

The objective of this study was to identify the risk factors of mortality of under-five pneumonia patients in Tercha General Hospital. For determining the risk factors of the mortality of under-five pneumonia patients; a total of 281 patients were included in the study out of those patients 16.7% were died and this study is agreed with study conducted at Bushulo Major Health Center that is 18.79% by (Zinabu et al., 2014)and with the Global, regional and national causes of child mortality report that is 14.1% by (Li Liu, 2012). This study revealed that male patients were more exposed to pneumonia than female patients; this result is in line with other study conducted in JUSH by (Firaol B., 2017) and in Pakistan by (Christa L, 2013)and also children in the age group 1-11 months were more exposed than other age groups and this study agrees with study conducted in Sidama Zone Wondo Genet District by (Teshome, 2017), patients in the rural residence were more exposed than urban residence agrees with study conducted in JUSH by (Firaol B., 2017) and in China by (Feng X., 2012)and the prevalence of pneumonia in season of spring and summer were higher than other seasons and is in line with studies in Hawassa city by (Tariku T., 2017), in Malawi by (Ellubey R., 2004) and in Southern Israel by (Lieberman D and Porath A, 2005). In this study nonparametric methods, semi-parametric and parametric survival models are applied. None parametric method is used to compare the difference between each categorical covariate based on Kaplan-Meier estimation method. The semi-parametric survival analysis using Cox PH model was fitted and the assumptions were checked for each covariate and for overall model fitted, and assumptions were violated for Cox PH model.

Then the researcher introduced an alternative model for Cox PH model which is parametric AFT survival model to fit the pneumonia data in TGH based by (Kalbfleisch and Prentice, 2002). The researcher used different types of the baseline distributions to fit AFT models for pneumonia dataset in TGH. The baseline distributions used in this study were Weibull, Lognormal and Log-logistic. The Weibull AFT model was selected as good AFT model than lognormal and log-logistic model based on comparison criteria with smaller AIC value (Munda, 2012). Based on the Weibull AFT model the study showed that the survival time of under-five pneumonia patients was significantly and strongly associated with Sex of children, Residence of children, Season of Diagnosis patients were admitted to hospital, Comorbidity, Severe Acute Malnutrition(SAM), Patient refer status from other health center and Patient to Nurse ratio(PNR). The current study is consistent with other findings by (Firaol, 2017) and by (Tariku, 2017). The findings of this study was revealed that female patients and patients whose residence was urban had prolonged the timing death of pneumonia while male and patients whose residence was rural had shorten timing death of pneumonia, the study agrees with study conducted at Pakistan (Christa L, 2013) and study conducted at JUSH (Firaol, 2017)and also with the report of Integrated community case management of childhood illness in Ethiopia(Miller, 2014). In this study it was found that Patients who were admitted in summer and spring season have shorter survival time and had high risk of dying from pneumonia as compared with autumn and winter seasons; this result agrees with study conducted in Hawassa city by (Tariku, 2017) and in southern Israel Hospital by (Lieberman and Porath, 2005) as reported that there is high incidence of CAP during spring and summer seasons.

The findings of this study also showed that the patients who were suffered comorbidity or any other disease had shorter survival time than patients without comorbidity and also patients suffered Severe acute malnutrition (SAM) had shorter survival time than that of patients without severe acute malnutrition (SAM) the studies that support this results were conducted in Pakistan by (Duke, 2002), in Malawi by (Ellubey, 2004), in JUSH by (Firaol, 2017), in southern Israel Hospital by (Lieberman D and Porath, 2005) and the Child Health Epidemiology Reference Group (CHERG) report by (Fischer, 2013). Patients who admitted during patients to nurse ratio (PNR) was high had high risk of dying from pneumonia and patients who admitted during ratio of patient to nurse is high has less chance to survive as it is compared to others patients the study agrees with study conducted at Hawassa city by (Tariku T., 2017) and in Europe by (Andrea, 2017) and (Penyoyer, 2010).

Conclusion

This study used survival time of under-five pneumonia patients' dataset of those who were registered and treated from September, 2016-August, 2017 with the aim of investigating the survival rate of under-five pneumonia patients in Tercha General Hospital. Due to violation of Cox PH model assumptions; parametric AFT models were fitted. From different types of AFT models fitted using different baseline distributions, Weibull AFT model is selected as the good model based on the AIC value. The results of this study showed that sex, residence, season of diagnosis, comorbidity, severe acute malnutrition (SAM), patients refer status and patient nurse ratio (PNR) were found to be significant predictors for survival time of patients. Of which patients whose residence was urban is prolong timing death of pneumonia patients. Similarly male patients, season of diagnosis in Spring and summer, patients with comorbidity and patients with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were statistically significantly shorten timing of death of under-five pneumonia. All concerned body should work on awareness by giving health promotions on appropriate and effective treatment in home and early diagnosis to the community to reduce under-five pneumonia mortality. All stakeholders in the health center need to improve Health facilities in hospitals and should be handled with effective management. The researchers who interested to investigate on the same area are recommended to introduce frailty modeling to account the correlation in the cluster.

Abbreviations

AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome; AFT: Accelerating Failure Time; CHERG: Child Health Epidemiology Reference Group; AIC: Akaikie Information Criteria; HIV: Human immune Virus; JUSH: Jimma University Specialized Hospital; TGH: Tercha General Hospital; WHO: World health organization

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Ethical Consideration: The Research Ethics Review Board of Jimma University has provided an ethical clearance for this study. The data was collected from Tercha General Hospital based on official letter written to the Hospital. The study conducted without individual informed consent because it relied on retrospective data.

Competing interest: The authors declare that no competing interests exis

Authors' Contribution

Lema Abate conceived and designed the study, analyzed and interpreted data, and wrote the initial draft of the paper. Megersa Tadesseprovided overall technical and academic guidance and reviewed the final paper for important intellectual content.

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