**Table 4. Main outcomes stratified by initial treatment strategy**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Conservative (n=4)** | **Neurosurgery only (n=4)** | **ENT only (n=15)** | **Combined ENT and neurosurgery (n=16)** | **Total (n=39)** | **p value** |
| **Death (%)** | 0 | 0 | 2 (13.3) | 1 (6.3) | 3 (7.6) | 0.803 |
| **Return to theatrea (%)** | 1 (25) | 2 (50) | 6 (40) | 10 (62.5) | 19 (48.7) | 0.482 |
| **Neurological disability (%)** | 0 | 3 (75)\* | 1 (6.7)\* | 5 (31.3) | 9 (23.1) | 0.033\* |
| **Length of hospital stay (median, IQR)** | 12.5 (9) | 24 (13) | 17 (15) | 21 (19) | 20.1 (19) | 0.189 |
| **Re-admission (%)** | 1 (25) | 0 | 1 (6.7) | 1 (6.3) | 3 (7.7) | 0.619 |
| **Length of antibiotic course (days), median IQR** | 42 (4) | 49 (19) | 42 (8) | 42 (20) | 42 (16) | 0.897 |

*aPatients who failed conservative management and required surgery were labelled as ‘returned to theatre’*

*\*Significant difference in neurological disability was observed between neurosurgery only and ENT only treatment groups, but not between other groups*