E30 AN AUDIT TO ASSESS THE RATE OF PHYSIOTHERAPY REFERRAL AND BASMI MEASUREMENTS FOR PATIENTS WITH ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS IN THE GENERAL RHEUMATOLOGY CLINIC AT SHEFFIELD TEACHING HOSPITALS

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Background: Patients with ankylosing spondylitis (AS) often require multidisciplinary team (MDT) input to maximise function and quality of life. Physiotherapy is a well-established treatment. Hydrotherapy and specific exercises can be effective to optimise posture and flexibility. Metrology indices such as Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Metrology Index (BASMI) are pivotal for the initial assessment and evaluation of clinical outcomes. In Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, patients with AS are followed up in either the dedicated AS clinic or general rheumatology clinic. In the dedicated clinic, they are reviewed by a physiotherapist on the day of their appointment. Self-help advice is given and BASMI measurements recorded. Further follow up is arranged if indicated. The general clinic does not have immediate access to physiotherapy and referrals have to be made by a clinician. This audit aimed to assess the rate of physiotherapy referral for patients in the general clinic and compare the rate of BASMI measurements with those in the dedicated clinic. (Using recommendations that BASMI should be measured at least annually).

Methods: In February 2017, a total of 365 patients with AS attended the general clinic and 115 patients attended the dedicated AS clinic. Systematic sampling was used to choose 50 patients from the general clinic and 25 patients from the dedicated clinic. Physiotherapy notes were used to confirm physiotherapy input and BASMI measurements. To account for possible confounders such as current use of biologics; this information was obtained using the biologics database.

Results: Only nine out of 50 (18%) patients in the general clinic were seen by physiotherapy and had BASMI measurements recorded within one year. This increased slightly to 14 patients within two years. In the dedicated clinic, a far greater proportion: 18 out of 25 (72%) patients...
had BASMI measurements recorded within one year. (84% within two years). Accounting for two patients not attending appointments, the adjusted results for the dedicated clinic would be 78.3% within one year and 87.5% within two years. 31 patients in the general clinic were taking biologics and seven of these were seen by physiotherapy within one year. 19 patients in the dedicated clinic were on biologics and 11 of these were reviewed by physiotherapy within one year.

**Conclusion:** The rate of physiotherapy referral and frequency of BASMI measurements was far lower in the general rheumatology clinic compared to the dedicated AS clinic. Despite this difference, there remains room for improvement in the dedicated clinic as well. Biologics did not appear to be a confounding factor as a high proportion of patients in the dedicated clinic were currently using biologics and still required active physiotherapy input. Considerations are being made to expand the MDT model in the general clinic and address the shortcomings in the dedicated clinic.

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