REDUCED PREVALENCE OF PAIN AND DISTRESS DURING 4 YEARS OF SCREENING WITH QUICATOUCH

While psychosocial screening has been recommended in oncology for some time, widespread adoption in clinical practice has lagged. The QUICATOUCH program is one example of sustained clinic-level screening, assessment and referral.

The authors examined whether this program was associated with reductions in pain or distress. 9,133 oncology outpatients were screened on 26,385 occasions from October 2007–September 2011. Pain over threshold reduced over time, from 33% in the first 3 months to 16% in the final quarter of the evaluation. Distress over threshold reduced from 28% to 10%. A reduction was also observed when restricted to patients screened for the first time. The analysis demonstrated this effect was not explained by measured potential confounders (gender, age, treatment status) and was unlikely to be attributable to regression to the mean.

Observational studies cannot prove causation. However, the significant reduction in pain and distress levels in the 48 months following commencement of QUICATOUCH is consistent with a beneficial effect of the program.


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PROLACTIN-ELEVATING ANTIPSYCHOTICS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED RISK OF ENDOMETRIAL CANCER

In data from the UK Clinical Practice Research Datalink, all women who were newly treated with antipsychotics from 1990–2013 were identified and followed until 2014. Within this cohort (n=65,930 women) of antipsychotic users, a nested case-control analysis was conducted. Main exposure was non-sporadic use of prolactin-elevating antipsychotics, and the active comparator was prolactin-sparing antipsychotics. Cases were women newly diagnosed with endometrial cancer (ICD-10) matched with up to 20 controls on age, calendar year of cohort entry, linkability to the Hospital Episode Statistics repository, and duration of follow-up. Analyses were adjusted for relevant potential confounders.

During 366,112 person-years of follow-up, there were 139 cases of endometrial cancer, which were matched to 1,603 controls. Compared with the use of prolactin-sparing antipsychotics, the use of prolactin-elevating antipsychotics was not associated with an increased risk of endometrial cancer. These findings remained similar with different durations of use and were robust to various sensitivity analyses.


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THE PEROIOPERATIVE TOOLKIT

The Perioperative Toolkit is designed to aid in the continuous quality improvement of perioperative structures, processes and outcomes for patients having a surgery/procedure and anaesthesia. It is produced by the Anaesthesia Perioperative Care Network and Surgical Services Taskforce, in collaboration with the Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI). Members of the 2015/16 working group include HNE staff: Associate Professor Ross Kerridge (Anaesthetist and Director of Perioperative Services – JHH), Dr Tracey Tay (Anaesthetist – JHH) and Sharon Nash (Perioperative Services CNC – Meh, Peel and Tablelands Sectors, HNELHD).

RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE SAFE & EFFECTIVE USE OF TOPICAL MOSQUITO REPELLENTS


SAB IN AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC HOSPITALS

In 2015–16, 1,440 cases of hospital-associated Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia (SAB) were reported in Australian public hospitals. The national rate of SAB in public hospitals was 0.73 cases per 10,000 days of patient care, and all states and territories had rates below the national benchmark of 2.0 cases per 10,000 days of patient care. Read the full AIHW report...

The role of aspirin dose on the prevention of preeclampsia and fetal growth restriction: systematic review and meta-analysis. American journal of obstetrics & gynecology, 216(2), 110–120.e6
Available via CIAP


Manning, V. et al. (2017) Substance use outcomes following treatment: findings from the Australian Patient Pathways Study. Australian & New Zealand journal of psychiatry, 51(2) 177–189

Skelton, E. et al. (2017) Tobacco smoking policies in Australian alcohol and other drug treatment services: agreement between staff awareness and the written policy document. BMC public health, 17:87

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Every-Palmer, S. et al. (2017) Pharmacological treatment for antipsychotic-related constipation. Cochrane database of systematic reviews, Issue 1


Luckett, T. et al. (2016) Clinical trials of medicinal cannabis for appetite-related symptoms from advanced cancer: a survey of preferences, attitudes and beliefs among patients willing to consider participation. Internal medicine journal, 46(11), 1269–1275

Raithe, E. et al. (2017) Prognostic accuracy of the SOFA score, SIRS criteria, and qSOFA score for in-hospital mortality among adults with suspected infection admitted to the intensive care unit. JAMA, 317(3), 290–300
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SEE ALSO: Freund, Y. et al. (2017) Prognostic accuracy of Sepsis-3 criteria for in-hospital mortality among patients with suspected infection presenting to the emergency department. JAMA, 317(3), 301–308
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Davis, D. et al. (2017) Association of delirium with cognitive decline in late life: a neuropsychological study of 3 population-based cohort studies. JAMA psychiatry, 74(3), 244–251
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Bigaard, H. et al. (2016) Fish oil-derived fatty acids in pregnancy and wheeze and asthma in offspring. NEJM, 375(26), 2530–2539
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Articles listed in the newsletter aren’t necessarily available FREE. We’re just letting you know what’s available!
If you’ve searched eJournals and eBooks on the HNE Health Libraries’ website and can’t find the article, contact your local HNE Health Library for further assistance. (Contact details are on page 4.)
HNE Health Libraries will be able to supply most articles—but there may be charges.

RECENT ARTICLES

NB. Articles in dark blue bold text have Australian content

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LOCAL RESEARCH

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SOCIAL DYSFUNCTION & DIET OUTCOMES IN PEOPLE WITH PSYCHOSIS

This paper from local authors – using data from the Hunter New England catchment site of the Survey of High Impact Psychosis – highlights high rates of social dysfunction, significant food insecurity, and intakes of fruits and vegetables below recommendations in people with psychosis. In light of this, a greater focus needs to be given to dietary behaviours and social dysfunction in lifestyle interventions delivered to people with psychosis.

SOURCE: Doreen Muchenzi, Mary-Claire Hanlon, Linda Campbell, Mark McEvoy and Lesley MacDonald-Wicks (2017) Social dysfunction and diet outcomes in people with psychosis. Nutrients, 9(1), 80

PRIORITY RESEARCH CENTRE FOR BRAIN & MENTAL HEALTH and DEPT OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY, CMN

CLINICAL & ORGANISATIONAL IMPACTS OF EHEALTH TECHNOLOGIES IN HOSPITAL PRACTICE

Healthcare systems internationally are undertaking large-scale digitisation programs with hospitals being a major focus. The present study found peer-reviewed research evidence that hospital-based eHealth technologies improve efficiency and appropriateness of care, prescribing safety and disease control. Reported harms were alert fatigue, increased technology interaction time, creation of disruptive workarounds and new prescribing errors. Effects on mortality, readmissions, total costs and patient and provider experience remain uncertain.


CARE AT THE VERY END-OF-LIFE: DYING CANCER PATIENTS & THEIR CHOSEN FAMILY’S NEEDS

This non-systematic review’s aims are to summarise the symptoms most feared by people imminently facing death which is defined as the terminal phase of life, where death is imminent and likely to occur within hours to days, or very occasionally, weeks. Further, this paper explores the incidence and management of problems that may affect the dying person which are most feared by their family. The final section of this work includes a brief discussion of the most significant issues that require attention.

SOURCE: Katherine Clark (2017) Care at the very end-of-life: dying cancer patients and their chosen family’s needs. Cancers, 9(2), 11

ANXIETY LEVELS ARE INDEPENDENTLY ASSOCIATED WITH COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE IN AN AUSTRALIAN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS PATIENT COHORT

Neurological and psychological symptoms in multiple sclerosis can affect cognitive function. The objective of this study was to explore the relationship between neurological measures and cognitive performance in a patient cohort. In 322 multiple sclerosis patients, psychological symptoms were measured using the Depression Anxiety and Stress Scale, and cognitive function was evaluated using Audio Recorded Cognitive Screen. Multifactor linear regression analysis, accounting for all clinical covariates, found that anxiety was the only psychological measure to remain a significant predictor of cognitive performance, particularly memory function. Further prospective studies are required to determine whether treatment of anxiety improves cognitive impairment.


REDUCING MEDICATION ERRORS IN HOSPITAL DISCHARGE SUMMARIES

Transitions of care, such as discharge from hospital, are points of increased risk for errors in medication management. Medication errors are common in discharge summaries in Australia. This randomised controlled trial, found that pharmacists completing medication management plans in the discharge summary significantly reduced the rate of medication errors (including errors of high and extreme risk) in discharge summaries for general medical patients.


REDUCING RECURRENT BACTERIAL SKIN INFECTIONS IN ABORIGINAL CHILDREN IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

Reports from health workers, school staff and community members in rural NSW suggest that bacterial skin infections are a significant health issue for Aboriginal children and their families, affecting quality of life and contributing to poor school attendance. Current NSW treatment guidelines do not incorporate important sociocultural factors or ways of living in Aboriginal communities. The aim of this qualitative study was to gain a deeper understanding of the experience of parents and carers of Aboriginal children affected by skin infections and of other community members, health workers and school staff, and what actions have been considered successful or unsuccessful in reducing the recurrence of infection.


RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRESCRIBED PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS & CO-INGESTED ALCOHOL IN INTENTIONAL SELF-POISONINGS

This study investigates the influence of prescribed psychotropic medications on the odds of co-ingesting alcohol preceding or during intentional efforts to self-poison. Data was extracted from a cohort of consecutive hospital presentations following poisoning managed by the Hunter Area Toxicology Service between January 1987 and February 2014. A total of 7270 patients aged 18–96 were included. The odds of alcohol co-ingestion were increased in those not prescribed any medication and in impulsive self-poisonings. Odds were decreased in those prescribed anticonvulsants, antipsychotics and antidepressants. The authors suggest that their findings indicate that being medicated for a psychiatric illness may reduce the likelihood of alcohol consumption during times of acute distress, hence perhaps may reduce the risk of intentional self-poisoning.


LOCAL RESEARCH

EFFECTS OF COFFEE CONSUMPTION ON GUT RECOVERY AFTER GYNECOLOGICAL CANCER SURGERY: A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL

In 114 patients who consumed coffee (3 times daily) after abdominal hysterectomy and systematic paraaortic lymphadenectomy, the mean time to bowel motility and the ability to tolerate food was significantly reduced compared with control subjects. The treatment is simple, cheap, and well-tolerated.


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**CIAP PEDIATRICS WORKSHOP**

**WHEN:** 8.30am – 4pm on Wed 3rd May 2017  
**WHERE:** Hunter Medical Research Institute

This FREE full day educational workshop will focus on CIAP resources relevant to paediatric practice, including decision-support, evidence-based practice and education. It includes training in using citation databases. It is open to all NSW Health staff who provide care to paediatric patients and their families.

Registration is available via CIAP. Click on the ‘Register’ link, or go directly to HETI Online. You can also contact the CIAP Team for more information or to register for this workshop.

**NEW AUDIO DIGEST PSYCHIATRY CDs**

A public health approach to preventing mental illness 45(24) 2016

Public health approaches to mental health / Types of prevention / Risk factors and protective factors / Social determinants of mental health / Clinical applications / Q&A

**THE OPIATE EPIDEMIC**

Taylor & Francis present a FREE ACCESS article collection centred on the growing epidemic of opiate use. Topics include:

- Opiate Abuse in Young People
- Opiate Rehabilitation
- Illegal vs. Legal Opiate Abuse
- Dual Diagnosis: Opiate Abuse and Mental Health

All articles below are free to read and download until 31st May, 2017.

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