E-Poster

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Evaluation of the Referral Pathway for Adult Spasticity Therapy: A Review of Pathways Between Acute Specialist and Community Neurorehabilitation Services

Topic: Rehabilitation Across the Continuum of Care

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BACKGROUND

The Royal College of Physician Spasticity management in adult National guideline (2018) has suggested that to achieve the desired effect when treating with botulinum toxin a coordinated multidisciplinary approach, involving physical management and therapy is needed to achieve the desired effect and spasticity management should be coordinated.

Aim is to address barriers to early referral for Adult spasticity management using botulinum toxin injection.

METHODS

A retrospective sample of 50 consecutive adult patient case notes in a Level 2 Specialist Rehabilitation unit who were treated using botulinum toxin between 2021-2023, practice was compared to the Royal College of Physicians National Guideline 2018.

RESULTS

In cycle one which was carried out between June 2021- August 2022 with Participants (n=50; mean age=52.5 years; age range 19-87 years, gender F= 60%, M= 40%) who presented with spasticity following neurological injuries but predominantly ischemic stroke revealed inadequate referral pathway and poor outcomes of late treatment leading to patients developing contractures at the time of review.

A re-evaluation carried out between December 2022 to October 2023 with Participants (n=50; mean age=52.0 years; age range 19-84 years, gender F= 62%, M= 38 %) with similar profile as cycle 1 following the establishment of an integrated commissioned pathway showed significant improvement with improved multidisciplinary assessment from 24% to 76%, early identification and assessment, joint delivery of botulinum toxin treatment in the community leading to improved outcome, achievement of patient goals and functional abilities showing that an established referral pathway with multidisciplinary team working is essential in managing adults presenting with spasticity from neurological cause.

CONCLUSION

Establishing this direct referral pathway has led to a more coordinated multidisciplinary approach with improved service delivery and a more coordinated care leading to good outcomes by ensuring appropriate use of botulinum toxin in the early phases of rehabilitation.

Statement of Disclosures

None

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