

Aims. Clinical Simulation sessions were started in April 2020 to supplement reduced patient contact for medical students at the University of Sheffield due to COVID-19 restrictions. These were run by Foundation Trainees in psychiatry with supervision and oversight from a senior psychiatrist. This study aims to review current literature on remote teaching as a learning resource and will evaluate the effectiveness of clinical simulation as an alternative to patient contact, with the focus being on improving students' confidence as well as developing clinical interview skills.

Method. Feedback surveys were developed, focussing on confidence undertaking difficult aspects of psychiatric interviews, and distributed amongst two cohorts of medical students at the University of Sheffield. One cohort completed their face-to-face psychiatry placement in full pre-COVID, the other undertook placements consisting of virtual simulation sessions alongside reduced patient contact. Responses were collected online over 6 weeks between February and March 2021. As two medical students who completed face-to-face psychiatry placement prior to the pandemic, we have additionally submitted personal reflections as a comparator to current student experiences.

Result. A total of 8 students in the clinical simulation cohort, and a total of 13 students from the face-to-face teaching cohort completed the questionnaire. 62.5% of students that responded were female and the remaining percentage identified as male. Students in the face-to-face cohort reported being more confident in 6 out of 7 aspects of our feedback surveys determining confidence undertaking clinical interview skills in comparison to the virtual simulation cohort. Students attended varying numbers of simulation sessions and ultimately the main restrictions and barriers to the simulation teaching reported by students are the time constraints during the sessions, and unstable internet connection.

Conclusion. Overall confidence levels in medical students are undoubtedly higher in students that completed full face-to-face placements in comparison to those with combined teaching. Based on student responses and review of current literature, clinical simulation appears to serve as a useful adjunct to students with reduced face-to-face contact in psychiatry, particularly for increasing confidence when interviewing more challenging patients. Immediate facilitator feedback and exposure to more difficult patient scenarios seem to be the most beneficial aspects. We would not advocate it as an exclusive form of teaching for medical students, but it may be a useful resource post-pandemic for providing students with extra learning opportunities, specifically targeted at developing confidence and skills in more difficult situations which will hopefully benefit them in their later careers.

The haematological side effects of clozapine: literature review and meta-analysis

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Aims. This review and meta-analysis aim to estimate the cumulative incidence of clozapine induced agranulocytosis and leukopenia the impact of the associated factors such as dose of clozapine, duration of follow-up, gender and race on the cumulative incidence.

Background. Clozapine is the only medication licensed for treatment-resistant schizophrenia. There has been a renewed

interest in the role of Clozapine in the treatment of Schizophrenia based on strong evidence that favours its efficacy and safety. Despite the evidence that Clozapine has superior efficacy and has been recommended for treatment-resistant cases by the national guidelines, the drug is underutilised.

Method. We included all studies in which clozapine was used for a psychotic illness. We included studies which provided data on two primary indices; Leucopenia or agranulocytosis and neutropenia; defined according to the cut off used by CPMS for total WBC and neutrophil count. Additionally we included studies reporting another blood dyscrasia or death due to agranulocytosis. Studies were identified by searching AMED, BIOSIS, CINAHL, EMBASE, MEDLINE, PsycINFO, PubMed, and registries of Clinical Trials and their monthly updates, hand searches, gray literature, and conference proceedings from the first available date until 2nd February, 2015. The search was updated on 15th March, 2017. The Protocol was initiated and then registered with PROSPERO International prospective register of systematic reviews University of York, Centre for Reviews and Dissemination.

Result. The cumulative incidence of the agranulocytosis in all studies was 00.32 % (CI 00.1-0.63). The cumulative incidence in all studies for different types of blood dyscrasia were following: leucopenia 00.96 % (CI 0.39-1.70), neutropenia 2.93 % (CI 1.49-4.72), other blood dyscrasias 4.64% (CI 2.34-7.52) and any blood dyscrasia was 2.23 (CI 1.46-3.12).

Conclusion. The limitations of this review are mainly due to the nature of evidence from the included studies. We adopted a broad inclusion criteria to include all the available evidence. Number of patients started on Clozapine may be withdrawn from the Clozapine on the earliest signs of blood dyscrasias since the introduction of Clozapine monitoring services. This means that the true incidence of agranulocytosis and neutropenia may be higher and this may be a major bias in finding the true incidence of Clozapine induced neutropenia.

Dissection of neuroinflammation in schizophrenia

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Aims. Schizophrenia is notoriously becoming one of the world's most debilitating mental disorders, affecting 1 in 100 people. There is increasing evidence that neuroinflammation plays a part in the pathogenesis of schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders; microglial activity acting as a marker for neuroinflammatory reactions in the brain. Furthermore, cannabis is an illicit substance that also evokes a similar response in the neuroimmune activity. This project explores how cannabis exposure influences an elevation in neuroinflammatory responses through TSPO levels, and whether this information can help us determine if cannabis use and increased TSPO levels can be associated with a risk factor for developing psychosis.

Method. 55 participants (36 males and 19 females) were recruited from the community by the IRIS (Inflammatory Reaction in Schizophrenia) team at the IoPPN, King's College London, from which 34 patients with a diagnosis of schizophrenia and 21 healthy controls took part in the study. The eligible participants underwent clinical assessments and PET scanning, from which cannabis use history and PET data were collected. Participant neuroinflammatory levels are represented by [18F]DPA-714 volume and different regions of grey matter in the brain were analysed through multivariate analyses, the confounding variables being age and TSPO genotype.