Despite advances in lead placement and lead technology, lead fracture continues to be a major issue in recent (<5 year) implanted leads, with a disproportionate number of one lead type in our series. The reasons for this require further exploration.

Conflict of Interest None

DETECTION OF ATRIAL FIBRILLATION WITH AMBULATORY ECG RECORDING – A RETROSPECTIVE SERVICE EVALUATION OF 24 HOURS HOLTER MONITOR AND CARDIAC MEMO RESULTS IN A LARGE DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL

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Introduction Atrial fibrillation (AF) is a global public health priority. An unsolved problem is how to detect paroxysmal AF. Patients presenting with palpitations are usually monitored for a short period of time with conventional 24 hour Holter monitor or 72 hours cardiac memo. As a result, it is likely that AF is being routinely underdiagnosed and undertreated. This service evaluation reviewed the proportion of patients amongst those who are investigated for palpitations/pre-syncope by the Cardiology Department in Queen Alexandra hospital (CQAH) with a 24 hours Holter monitor or cardiac memo who have evidence of AF.

Methods Retrospective review of all patients who were investigated with either a 24 hours Holter monitor or 72 hours cardiac memo during August 2019. Clinic letters and discharge summaries were reviewed to assess reason for investigations, findings and outcomes. If a diagnosis of AF, paroxysmal AF or atrial flutter was made, management decision and subsequent anticoagulation was reviewed.

Results A total of 232 patients were assessed with 24 hours Holter (n=122) monitor and Cardiac memo (n=108). Average age 65 years (5-94). In 5% of cases (12/232) no documentation of results was found. 5% (10/220) had new diagnosis of AF.

60% (72/122) of patients investigated with a 24 hours Holter monitor for palpitation (18/122), pre-syncpe (5/122) and syncpe (15/122) were in sinus rhythm (SR) +/- ectopics. No patients with palpitation or pre-syncpe had AF. 4/15 patients with syncpe had a new diagnosis of AF (2) or supraventricular tachycardia (2). 34% (42/122) of Holter monitor were used as a result of a documented arrhythmia, 18/42 of which had known AF. 21% (26/122) of Holter monitor were used to investigate TIA/Stroke, 3/26 had new diagnosis of AF.

70% (75/108) of patients investigated with a Cardiac Memo for palpitations (28/108), pre-syncpe (13/108) and syncpe (15/108) were in SR +/- ectopics. 3/28 with palpitations, 1/13 with pre-syncpe, 1/15 with syncpe group had new AF. 2/15 with syncpe who were in SR had a reveal device implanted subsequently. 34% (37/108) were investigated due to TIA/Stroke, all of which were in SR.

Conclusion The number of patients diagnosed with significant cardiac arrhythmia, for example AF, as a result of conventional 24 hours tape and cardiac memo is low even if patients present with symptoms of palpitations, pre-syncpe and syncpe.

As a result of this service evaluation we have applied for a £20,000 grant as part of a ‘NHS Joint Working Project’ to introduce novel, prolonged and home-based ECG monitoring to the department. Patients who are referred to CQAH and require investigation of symptoms of palpitation, pre-syncpe and syncpe will be offered ECG monitoring over up to 3 months with a KardiaMobile 6 lead ECG (by AliveCor) as an alternative to conventional methods described above. A comparison of identification of cardiac arrhythmia, in particularly AF and subsequent management change, will be made.

Conflict of Interest None

PROGNOSTIC POTENTIAL OF ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHIC PARAMETERS IN PATIENTS WITH MULTIPLE MYELOMA

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Background Patients with multiple myeloma (MM) can develop cardiac abnormalities, predisposing them to the development of heart failure, arrhythmia or infarction with poor prognosis. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the prognostic potential of electrocardiographic (ECG) parameters in patients with MM.

Methods This study retrospectively included patients with MM from January 2010 to December 2018 in the First Affiliated Hospital of Xi’an Jiao Tong University. Univariate and multivariate Cox proportional hazard models were conducted to evaluate the relationship between ECG parameters and all-cause mortality in patients with MM.

Results A total of 409 patients were included (mean age: 61.3 ± 9.7 years, 59.1% male). The relationship of ECG parameters, including PR interval, voltage, QRS axis, QRS duration and QTc interval, and all-cause mortality in MM patients was evaluated. Overall, patients with QTc interval ≥ 400 msec have a significantly higher all-cause mortality compared to those with QTc interval <400 msec (P <0.001). When stratified by International Staging System (ISS), this relationship was true for stages II and III (P <0.01), but not stage I (P > 0.05). MM patients with QRS duration ≥ 120 msec had a higher all-cause mortality compared to those with QRS duration <120 msec for females (P <0.01) but not for males (P > 0.05). PR interval, voltage and QRS axis did not predict mortality.

Conclusions QTc interval was independently associated with all-cause mortality in MM patients, especially when QTc interval was more than 400 msec in more advanced stages II and III. ECG parameters may provide prognostic potential of MM patients and promote the management of patients with MM.

Conflict of Interest None

CLINICAL CODING ERRORS IN ELECTIVE DEVICE IMPLANTATION COSTING

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Introduction Payment by Result (PbR) is a system of funding NHS healthcare. Funding to hospitals is therefore directly to provide treatment for patients with secondary conditions, in addition to primary care, without the risk of cuts in primary funding. Without this system of funding, the hospital is forced to introduce novel, prolonged and home-based ECG monitoring to the department. Patients who are referred to CQAH and require investigation of symptoms of palpitation, pre-syncpe and syncpe will be offered ECG monitoring over up to 3 months with a KardiaMobile 6 lead ECG (by AliveCor) as an alternative to conventional methods described above. A comparison of identification of cardiac arrhythmia, in particularly AF and subsequent management change, will be made.

Conflict of Interest None
linked to the number of treatments provided, each having a nationally set average tariff. The tariff is based on healthcare resource groups (HRG), which are a method of classifying patients by diagnosis (ICD10 codes) and/or procedure (OPCS codes). The main element of an HRG is the procedure but comorbidities, complications, age, gender, length of stay, legal status etc are taken into account when compiling a tariff. Following discharge, the coding department uses the above information to calculate the HRG tariff for that patient’s episode of care. [1,2] This relies on the information being entered correctly and the coding department/software assigning the right codes for that episode. Therefore, a major consequence of incomplete information and/or incorrect coding is loss of funds to the hospital.

The aim of this study was to audit the coding of elective device implants at Lister hospital

Methods The audit included a cohort of patients admitted for an elective device implant at Lister hospital in September 2019. Age, comorbidities and type of implant were recorded. These were used to calculate a proposed complexity and comorbidity (CC) score and a cost based on the NHS England National Tariffs for Cardiac Rhythm and Heart Failure (CRHF). The scores and costs were then compared to those calculated by the Trust’s coding department.

Results 14 patients in total. Only 6 patients had a full list of comorbidities and trust CC and procedure scoring. 5 of the 6 patients were correctly coded and costed. 1 patient had an incorrect CC score and consequently the trust lost £6113.

Results summarised in table 1 below.

Discussion The aim of PBR was to provide a transparent and fair payment system that provides incentives to efficient providers. Implementation of PBR schemes has however not been without controversy. Reviews have shown that PBR has to be part of a package of technical support, training, new management and monitoring systems. [5] A relevant example is Cambridge University Hospitals who were awarded the national data quality award in 2017, years after the implementation of EPIC, an electronic patient record system that allowed more accurate and efficient coding [3]. The cost incurred put the trust in financial strain, however, currently being offset by reimbursements from Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). [4]

The main limitation in this audit was the difficulty in obtaining clinical notes. Paper case notes slow down coders due to difficulties with extracting the right information and with deadline pressures and staff shortages, data quality is affected. This challenge is echoed by CAPITA PBR data assurance reports. [6] The quality of coded data could be improved by increasing engagement between coders and clinicians, IT systems that allow coding in line with national guidelines and improving staff training in clinical coding.

Conclusion Inaccurate complexity and comorbidity scoring can lead to significant under-costing of procedures and hospital funding losses.

Conflict of Interest None

Abstract 78 Figure 1 Stages of the procedure. 1A: Venogram of SVC occlusion. 1B: Venoplasty via RFV. 1C: Snaring and externalization of 0.035 wire. 1D: Implantation of new pacing lead. Transesophageal echocardiogram (TEE). Judkins right size 4 (JR4)