

P01-289 - USE OF THE PHQ-9 AS A SCREENING TOOL FOR POST-STROKE DEPRESSION

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Introduction: Following a previous audit conducted at Bedford Hospital we found no formal screening tool for depression was used in post-stroke patients. The prevalence of depression in the sample of 63 patients was 28%. We recommended the implementation of the PHQ-9 questionnaire as a screening tool for depression in these patients.

Objectives/Aims: To assess the effectiveness of the PHQ-9 as a screening tool for depression in stroke patients. To review whether implementing this screening tool has increased the prevalence of depression within this patient population.

Method: All patients admitted to the stroke ward in Bedford Hospital between 10/09/09 and 13/12/09 were included in the audit. Patients were screened two weeks after admission. Exclusion criteria were met if patients lacked mental capacity to be screened; the patient declined or was discharged or deceased within 2 weeks.

Results: Of 83 patients admitted, 18 (23%) were screened. Of these, 10 patients (53%) scored 5 or above, indicative of depression. One patient scored 10 indicative of moderate depression, and one patient scored 19 indicative of severe depression.

Conclusion: The PHQ-9 questionnaire is useful as it clearly increased the prevalence of post-stroke depression. However noticeably there are a significant proportion of patients who could not be screened using this tool as it is a self report assessment. This includes those who lack capacity or have communicative difficulties as is common after a stroke.