maintenance doses were chosen, with 47% of patients stimulated on the same dose and 37% on doses only marginally over the ST in consecutive sessions. During the treatment phase, two out of three restimulations were performed with a dose lower than the specified 10% increase. The reasons for deviating from the guidelines were not documented.

**Conclusion.** National audits of ECT clinics in 1981 and 1992 showed 50% and 25% missed seizure rates, respectively. Bridgend ECT Clinic maintained a missed fit rate of  $\leq$ 5% over a 6-year period, which is half that of NHFT. Missed seizures have been associated with treatment failure and post-ECT adverse effects; hence, to effectively manage them, we propose that all ECT administration personnel be familiar with the NHFT ECT protocol, including the stimulus-dosing protocol, and document any clinical grounds for deviations.

# Interactions Between Lamotrigine and Contraceptives – Communication Practises

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**Aims.** This audit assesses communication practices regarding interactions between lamotrigine and oral contraceptives in North West Sussex (NWS) Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services (SPMHS).

The predicted outcome includes increasing awareness about potential interaction between lamotrigine and contraceptives with resulting impact on patient safety.

**Background.** Lamotrigine is used for epilepsy and mental health disorders but can interact with contraceptives, affecting efficacy and safety. NICE recommends it for bipolar depression, relapse prevention and recurrent depression. Interactions with hormonal contraceptives can influence effectiveness of either drug and increase the risk of side effects. Patients on lamotrigine should be counselled so they can make an informed decision about taking the medication.

**Methods.** Reviewed records of all patient on the caseload on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023. Collected data for lamotrigine prescription, indication, contraceptive method, and documented counselling. Calculated percentage of patients counselled on lamotrigine-contraceptive interaction.

**Results.** In 261 patient records, 11.9% were previously or currently on lamotrigine or had a discussion about starting lamotrigine. 6.1% currently and 3.1% previously on lamotrigine. Counselling on lamotrigine's interaction with oral contraceptives was documented with 3.1%, while 74.2% received none. Indications for lamotrigine use were epilepsy 9.7% and mood stabiliser 90.3%. Of 27 patients who weren't currently pregnant, 9 of them were informed of the interaction risk while 18 were not. Contraception methods were documented for 10 individuals.

**Conclusion.** Findings showed the need for increased awareness about the interaction and documentation of appropriate discussions to inform their choice.

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# Audit Regarding the Physical Health Workload for Doctors at an Older Adult Psychiatry Unit in Leeds

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**Aims.** The Royal College of Psychiatrists provides guidance regarding the experience of Foundation Doctors and Core Trainees, during their Psychiatry rotations. At The Mount, an Older Adult Mental Health unit in Leeds, it was observed by trainees that management of physical health conditions was occupying a large portion of their time.

#### Aims:

- 1. Measure how much time is spent on physical health activities, between Foundation Doctors and Core Trainees at The Mount.
- 2. Consider the impact of physical health workload on the doctors' experience of Psychiatry.
- 3. Explore the mental health experience of doctors during this rotation.

Methods. This Audit was conducted in three stages:

- 1. Anonymous collection of quantitative data regarding the proportion of time spent on physical health work. This data was collected for current doctors across all wards, for a two-week period in October 2023.
- 2. A focus group of junior and senior doctors, to consider onward actions.
- 3. An anonymous qualitative survey regarding mental health experiences and suggestions for improvement. This was circulated to any Foundation Doctor or Core Trainee who worked at The Mount in the past 12-months, via an online survey.

**Results.** The quantitative survey showed that Foundation Doctors and Core Trainees at The Mount were spending at least half their time on physical health jobs, such as: clinical reviews, skills such as blood tests and ECGs, and referrals to other clinicians or specialties. This was considered unsurprising by doctors at all levels during the focus group.

The qualitative survey explored this further, with observations that doctors were sometimes unable to attend MDT meetings, tribunals or CPAs due to the high physical health workload. It was felt that senior staff were proactive in offering support, however trainees still felt that opportunities for mental health experience were limited.

Suggestions for improvement were made during the survey, including:

- 1. Increased input by senior medical staff, such as GPs or Geriatric Trainees.
- 2. Additional staff to support with upkeep of equipment, or skills such as phlebotomy.
- 3. Increased use of technology rather than paper charts.
- 4. Greater clarity regarding minimum staffing and whether locum doctors can be arranged to cover gaps.

**Conclusion.** In summary, the physical health workload for Foundation Doctors and Core Trainees was noted to be significant and impacting their mental health experience. Following this Audit, consultants at The Mount will be meeting with

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