

appropriate in general for stable or follow-up patients in comparison to new or acutely unwell patients. There was some worry expressed about missing out non-verbal cues which assist with mental state examination.

**Conclusion.** In spite of a low response rate, the survey provided some understanding about the experience of doctors practicing tele-psychiatry during pandemic. While technological challenges were acknowledged, tele-psychiatry seemed to have been accepted by a majority of doctors who are also willing to continue it in their future clinical practice. There is a need to explore in a larger sample involving both patients and clinicians about the beneficial effects of tele-psychiatry that can be incorporated in the usual psychiatric practice.

### Revisiting vitamin D status and supplementation for inpatients with intellectual and developmental disability in the north of England, UK

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doi: 10.1192/bjo.2021.95

**Aims.** Vitamin D deficiency is common among people with Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) and is linked to worse health outcomes.

Our aims were to re-evaluate vitamin D testing and supplementation among inpatients with IDD, examine any correlates with physical health conditions including COVID-19 and make recommendations for the current regime of supplementation and testing within inpatient IDD services.

**Method.** The study population comprised inpatients who were in any of the Northgate Hospital IDD inpatient services in Northumberland, UK. The wards sampled were the Medium Secure Unit, Low Secure Unit, Hospital Based Rehabilitation Wards and Specialist Autism Inpatient Service. Records of all inpatients between January 2019 and July 2020 were examined for 25-hydroxyvitamin D [25(OH)D] level, ward area, supplementation status, test seasonality, medication, and health status.

We performed a correlation to see whether there was an association between vitamin D level and length of time on treatment. In addition, comparison of the replete and inadequate group for age, ethnicity, seasonality, ward location and psychotropic medication was undertaken.

Data on physical health risk factors, obesity and COVID-19 infection were also collected. The physical comorbidities were described in order to evaluate whether any emerging patterns relating to COVID-19 infection were emerging.

**Result.** There were 67 inpatients in Northgate IDD services on 1 January 2019, with 11 further patients admitted up to the end of the sampling period on 31 July 2020. Nineteen patients were discharged during that period, so the sample comprised 78 patients.

Ages were comparable across three of the ward areas, except for an older group of patients in the hospital-based rehabilitation setting. Mean 25(OH)D level for supplemented (800IU/day) patients was 75nmol/l (SD 20) compared to 40nmol/l (SD 19) in the non-supplemented group ( $p < 0.001$ ).

Thirty-eight percent of those who were inpatients during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic developed symptoms, but the small sample size could not establish vitamin D levels as a predictor of outcome.

**Conclusion.** Our findings show that clinicians continue to offer vitamin D supplementation for inpatients, at a dose of 800IU (20µg) per day.

The mean vitamin D levels we observed were higher for those on supplements compared to our 2013 baseline data, whereas patients not on supplementation now had levels akin to those found previously. Vitamin D (800IU/day) supplementation is effective but adequacy of the nationally recommended dose of 400IU/day is unclear. Links to COVID-19 merit further research.

### Investigating Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS) in obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD): a double-blind, sham-controlled, cross-over randomised trial

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doi: 10.1192/bjo.2021.96

**Aims.** Obsessive Compulsive Disorder is a disabling and difficult-to-treat condition, new treatment options are needed to improve health outcomes. Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation, a non-invasive form of neurostimulation, has shown positive results in a small number of studies as a safe and potentially efficacious treatment for OCD. There nevertheless remains uncertainty about the optimal stimulation protocol, magnitude and duration of effect, acceptability, tolerability and practicality of applying tDCS clinical settings. As existing data are inadequate to support a full-scale trial, we will deliver a feasibility study to address key research questions and knowledge gaps to enable the design and the development of the most efficient, cost effective, definitive trial.

**Method.** We designed Feasibility And Acceptability Of Transcranial Stimulation In Obsessive Compulsive Symptoms (FEATSOCS), a double-blind, sham-controlled, cross-over randomised multicentre study in 25 adults with OCD. We will stimulate the two most promising cortical sites, the orbitofrontal cortex (OFC) and the supplementary motor area (SMA). Each participant will receive three courses of tDCS (SMA, OFC and sham), randomly allocated, given in counterbalanced order. Each course comprises four 20 minutes-stimulations, delivered over two consecutive days, separated by at least four weeks' washout period. Blinded raters will regularly assess clinical outcomes before, during and up to four weeks after stimulation using validated scales. We will include relevant neurocognitive tasks, testing cognitive flexibility, motor disinhibition, cooperation and habit learning.

**Result.** FEATSOCS trial is currently underway and recruiting. Owing to the impact of COVID-19, a recruitment extension has been granted. At the study end, we will analyse the feasibility outcomes, magnitude of the effect of the interventions on OCD symptoms alongside the standard deviation of the outcome measure to estimate effect size, and determine the optimal stimulation target. We will also measure the duration of the effect of stimulation, to provide information on spacing treatments efficiently. We