Overview

NHS National Commissioning Group - Highly Specialised Services

Chronic Pulmonary Aspergillosis National Service

Background:
National Aspergillosis Centre (NAC) is commissioned as a Highly Specialised Service within the NHS and has completed its 10th year. The NAC was commissioned on 1st May 2009 by the NHS Highly Specialised Commissioning Group to provide long term care in both out-patient and inpatient setting for the patients with chronic pulmonary aspergillosis (CPA) for England and Scotland. The centre provides high level of expertise in the clinical management of CPA, diagnostic testing and monitoring and access to high cost drugs for patients with CPA. It is supported by the Mycology Reference Centre which manages TDM, sputum cultures, PCR, Galactomannan and pyrosequencing. Regular MDTs are held with our clinical team, thoracic radiology, thoracic surgery and interventional radiology teams. The centre has undertaken a vast amount of audit and research over the last ten years.

Methods

Our data is submitted to the Commissioners on a monthly basis from April to March and all of this data is then collated at year end with input from the laboratory and communications team and put into the annual report which is then available for the public.

Results

Since commencement of the service 2764 patients have been assessed with some form of Asperillus. 1185 patients were reviewed and confirmed with CPA and these numbers continue to rise. Some of these patients have died (approx. 422). The majority of patients have significant co-morbidities and their management is complex. Around 184 patients have been discharged (Figure 1).

Future Directions

It is clear that the National Aspergillosis Centre in its base in Manchester has overseen a dramatic increase in the number of CPA cases it has seen over its first 10 years, with a 9-fold increase in patient numbers, and there is no sign that this rate of increase will diminish. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a common comorbidity and a national map of COPD (Fig 5) illustrates that although we seem to be seeing a representative portion of CPA patients in the North West of England, there are likely to be ‘hot-spots’ that we aren’t seeing in the North East, East and West Midlands, London, Home Counties and South Wales.

Summary

Given the increasing numbers a hub and spoke service will help to capture patients in other parts of the country.

A total of 117 bronchial artery embolisations have been carried out and 33 surgical resections have been undertaken (Figure 3).

Staff

We started with 3 consultants, 2 specialist nurses, 1 manager and 2 communications/Asperillus Website staff. The team has now grown to: 7 Consultants, 6 Clinical Research Fellows, 6 Specialist nurses, 5 nurses for the OPAT team, 1 Nursing assistant, 2 Specialist physiotherapists. In addition we have 4 staff in our communications team and 5 admin staff.

Figure 1.

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 2

Figure 2. Number of admissions, bed days and OPAT days at Wythenshawe by year from 2014-15.