Implications of NICE 2016 Tuberculosis Guidance for a TB Contact Screening Service

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Introduction NICE 2016 Tuberculosis guidance recommends significant changes in contact screening. Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) is advocated for diagnosis of latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI), with a positive TST redefined as 5mm regardless of BCG status, IGRA only to be used in diagnostic uncertainty, upper age for LTBI treatment raised from 35 to 65, and contact tracing no longer recommended for extra-pulmonary TB.

We use a 2 step test, with IGRA for those with TST > 10 mm in context of BCG, and treat LTBI on basis of IGRA result. We aimed to assess the implications for our service of adopting the new guidance.

Results 181 patients (M:F 87:94; age range 11–83; average age 44.8 years) had received at least one dose anti-TNF and were included in this study (see Table). The majority of patients had colitis (n = 143; 79%). 52 patients (28.7%) did not have a documented QFT or IGRA (interferon gamma release assay) result. LTBI was diagnosed in 8 (6.2%) with reactive QFT of whom 7 completed chemoprophylaxis and 1 was referred for further investigation and treatment elsewhere. 95 (73.6%) were QFT non-reactive. 26 (20.2%) were QFT indeterminate, all of whom had a diagnosis of colitis. Colitis patients were more likely to be QFT positive if they were tested at the time of rescue anti-TNF with or without surgery (RR 5.71; 95% CI: 2.49–13.09; p < 0.0001). 2 patients who received rescue anti-TNF and were subsequently found to be QFT reactive, successfully completed LTBI chemoprophylaxis.

Conclusion The rate of indeterminate QFT results is higher than expected in our cohort of patients with colitis who require rescue anti-TNF therapy and is likely to be related to the timing of testing. If QFT testing is undertaken, this should be performed when patients are at stable state and not at the time of inflammatory crisis.

Screening Outcomes of Household Contacts of Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis Patients in Peshawar, Pakistan

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Objective To assess the profile of TB/multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) among household contacts of MDR-TB patients.
Methods

Close contacts of MDR-TB patients were traced in the cross-sectional study. Different clinical, radiological and bacteriological were performed to rule out the evidence of TB/MDR-TB.

Results

Between January 2012 and December 2012, a total of 200 index MDR-TB patients were initiated on MDR-TB treatment, out of which home visit and contacts screening were conducted for 154 index cases. Of 610 contacts who could be studied, 41 (17.4%) were diagnosed with MDR-TB and 10 (4.2%) had TB. The most common symptoms observed were cough, chest pain and fever.

Conclusions

The high incidence of MDR-TB among close contacts emphasises the need for effective contact screening programme of index MDR-TB cases in order to cut the chain of transmission of this disease.

REFERENCES


Conclusion

The LTBI Pharmacy-led clinic has been successfully imbedded within our local practice to reduce waiting times, improve chemoprophylaxis adherence, enhance treatment outcomes, and minimise adverse drug reactions whilst maintaining a high standard of care. In addition, patients with more complex medical needs requiring biological therapy are now not excluded from this service.

Aim

To review the safety and effectiveness of the Pharmacy-led LTBI Service

Methods

Medical records of all cases of LTBI seen by the TB Pharmacist were reviewed retrospectively. Data obtained included patient demographics, treatment ± side-effects and clinical outcomes.

Results

206 patients with LTBI seen between Jan 2012 and December 2015 were identified (see Table 1). Contact tracing and the requirement for biological therapy were the commonest reasons for referral. 185 (89.8%) successfully completed treatment: 3 declined; 8 lost to follow up; 10 stopped due to side-effects. Significant drug side-effects included hepatitis, peripheral neuropathy, nausea and vomiting and only resulted in 2 non-completion, the rest were due to fatigue and headache. Of the 8 who stopped 1 developed active TB whilst on biological therapy. Patient satisfaction was good and patients would recommend this service to a friend or family member.

Conclusions

The LTBI Pharmacy-led clinic has been successfully implemented and incorporated into our local TB practice with good outcomes. Keeping with the Carter Review, it is important to utilise the skills and knowledge of previously unrecognised clinical partners to deliver high quality care. Patients were happy to be seen by the pharmacists. Poly pharmacy patients appreciated time spent to simplify regime and manage potential interaction.

REFERENCES