



Publication Summary

Scottish ECT Accreditation Network Annual Report 2014

A summary of ECT in Scotland in 2013

11 November 2014

About this Release

This report summarises data collected from all Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) treatment clinics in Scotland for 2013. Data are presented in relation to patient characteristics, legal status, diagnosis, interventions and clinical outcomes.

Key Points

- In 2013 there were 372 patients who received ECT, relating to 454 episodes of treatment.
- The most prevalent primary diagnosis of patients receiving ECT was depression in the context of both major depressive disorder and its various manifestations (most prevalent depression without psychosis (45%).
- The most common indication remains resistance to antidepressant medication (55%). In a total of 7% of patients ECT was administered as an emergency life saving treatment. The majority of treatments involved patients deemed to have capacity (i.e. capable of giving informed consent) (67%).
- 67% of patients who completed an episode of ECT showed significant improvement as evidenced by 50% or greater reduction in MADRS score over the course of treatment. The percentage of patients without capacity who showed this magnitude of improvement was greater than those with capacity (72% v 65%) reflecting the more severe nature of the illness in this group at the outset.
- The most frequently recorded side effects remains headache (27%).
- There were a total of 19 critical incidents (less than 1% of all treatments) recorded in the SEAN data but on further investigation the confirmed number was 11.
- The majority of patients (70%) have received just one course of treatment since the current SEAN audit began in 2005, whilst a small number (4%) have received

treatment on 5 or more occasions since 2005. This would appear to be indicative of the relapsing nature of the illness.

Background

The Scottish Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) Accreditation Network (SEAN) is a national clinical accreditation network with membership which includes Consultant Psychiatrists, Consultant Anaesthetists, ECT Nurses, Operating Department Practitioners and Recovery Nurses. The Steering Group in addition has representatives from the Scottish Government and the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland. There is also a SEAN Reference Group consisting of service users, carers & service users agencies which provides feedback and advice on care and treatment from the patient and carer's perspective. The CONECTS sub-group (Committee of Nurses at ECT in Scotland), for nurses involved with the delivery of ECT, aims to enhance the quality of care through continual education.

SEAN strives to deliver the three Quality Ambitions outlined in the Healthcare Quality Strategy for NHS Scotland; **patient-centred**, **safe** and **effective** care. As well as reporting annually on data collected from ECT clinics, SEAN continues its original remit to audit and provide accreditation to ECT services in Scotland.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [full report](#)  [808 Kb], on the [SEAN website](#) or on the [ISD website](#).

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