

PTH-024 A MULTICENTRE EXPERIENCE OF SACRAL NERVE STIMULATION (SNS) IN SCLERODERMA FAECAL INCONTINENCE

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Introduction Scleroderma is a multisystem disorder of unknown aetiology leading to the deposition of excessive connective tissue in the skin, blood vessels and internal organs. GI involvement is present in 90% of cases and the prevalence of faecal incontinence is 38%. The predominant type of faecal incontinence is passive faecal soiling, related to connective tissue deposition and internal anal sphincter (IAS) dysfunction. The only published study of sacral nerve stimulation (SNS) in scleroderma enrolled five patients and reported that temporary SNS was successful in four, all of whom had complete resolution of their incontinence episodes following a permanent implant. The mechanism of SNS in this indication, and others, remains unclear.

The Aim was to assess the outcome on Wexner incontinence values (0–20) post temporary SNS in Scleroderma faecal incontinence.

Methods A retrospective analysis was performed on all scleroderma patients from our two centres who had undergone SNS for faecal incontinence.

Results A total of 10 female patients with a mean age of 54 (37–72) had temporary SNS performed. Faecal incontinence symptom duration ranged from 2 to 25 years. Each patient had pre-procedure anorectal physiology documenting internal sphincter atrophy/fragmentation, a reduced resting pressure and correlation with passive faecal incontinence symptoms.

Overall, there was no significant difference in the total mean Wexner incontinence scores obtained following temporary SNS procedures. Two patients with a significant improvement went on to have permanent SNS with only one patient achieving a favourable outcome at one year. The following table demonstrates pre and post procedure Wexner incontinence scores as a mean on the 10 patients:

Abstract PTH-024 Table 1

Mean Wexner Score (0 – 20)	Pre procedure	Post procedure
Solid (max 4)	2.0	1.6
Liquid (max 4)	3.1	3.0
Gas (max 4)	3.2	2.7
Pads (max 4)	3.4	2.9
Lifestyle (max 4)	3.4	2.9
Total 20	15.1	13.1

Conclusions This study shows that SNS in scleroderma passive faecal incontinence did not achieve favourable results in 9 of 10 patients. The proposed mechanisms of SNS are unlikely to be able to reverse the infiltrative changes of the internal sphincter seen in scleroderma.

Disclosure of Interest None Declared.

PTH-025 SNIFFING DISEASE? OPTIMISATION OF SAMPLE PREPARATION FOR VOLALITE ORGANIC METABOLOMIC STUDIES

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Introduction Colitis in both humans and rodents appears to alter the metabolome. Establishing the complete mouse faecal metabolome will aid studies of change in models of disease. The optimum method for such studies had not been described; we have optimised our sample preparation and developed a quantitative method. This will allow us to develop a mouse model that could potentially be translated for diagnoses and treatment in human disease.

Methods Optimisation was performed on 3, 5, 10 or 20 faecal pellets from C57BL/6 male mice (n = 4) and repeated 3 times. Volatile organic metabolite (VOM) profiles for each were analysed using SPME with a CAR/DVB/PDMS fibre and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry. This was done with careful control and monitoring of adsorption time (20 mins) and temperature (60°C) on the extraction yield during the assays. We also investigated the influence of acidification on the yield. The adsorption time of analytes in the fibre was studied testing 10, 20 and 30 minutes of extraction VOM from 10 pellets of mice faeces at 60°C.

Results ANOVA found a significant difference between sample of differing size; (p < 0.01); 10 and 20 pellets had most VOMs (37 and 44, respectively; NS); 10 pellets were used in later work (figure 1a). The addition of acid to faeces compared to untreated faeces produced similar chromatograms with slight increases in abundance and peak area of certain non-specific VOMs e.g. large chain organic acids (figure 1c). However, as this study aims to eventually determine disease biomarkers, at this point we do not want to influence the occurrence of specific VOMs from our samples. Varying the extraction time did not show any major differences in the quantity of VOMs identified between 10, 20 and 30 minutes, therefore our findings confirm what past literature using 20 minutes adsorption time have stated (figure 1b).

Conclusion We have optimised conditions for sample preparation to produce quantifiable and significant results. We are currently

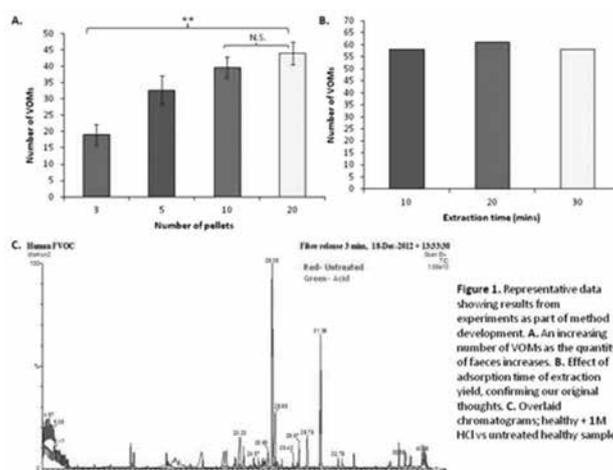


Figure 1. Representative data showing results from experiments as part of method development. A. An increasing number of VOMs as the quantity of faeces increases. B. Effect of adsorption time of extraction yield, confirming our original thoughts. C. Overlaid chromatograms; healthy + 1M HCl vs untreated healthy sample.

Abstract PTH-025 Figure 1

performing a longitudinal experiment on 6 male and 6 female C57BL/6 mice which will result in VOM profiles for each mouse along the time course of 8 weeks of a mouse's life, also providing us with 'normal' inter- and intra-animal metabolite variation. Such data will allow calibration of future studies of colonic disease in humans through the induction of colonic disease in mice.

Disclosure of Interest None Declared.

PTH-026 PREDICTORS FOR ALL CAUSE MORTALITY FOLLOWING CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE ASSOCIATED DIARRHOEA

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Introduction Severe *Clostridium difficile* associated diarrhoea (CDAD) is an important nosocomial infection, often resulting in severe morbidity or death. The rates of CDAD have increased significantly in the last 2 decades, but predictors of outcome are poorly understood.

Methods A retrospective cohort study was performed in patients with a diagnosis of CDAD hospitalised at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LHTT) between January 2011 and December 2011. The data on these cases was collected from electronic patient records and medical notes. Data collected included general demographics, underlying medical conditions, Horn Index, Charlson co-morbidity score, clinical and laboratory data, and the medical treatment given. Death due to any cause either during that hospital stay or within 30 days of discharge from hospital was the primary outcome. Severe CDAD was defined according to the UK Health Protection Agency (HPA) guidelines as WCC > 15 X 10⁹/L, or an acute rising serum creatinine (i.e. > 50% increase above baseline), or a temperature of > 38.5°C, or evidence of severe colitis (abdominal or radiological signs). Logistic Regression analysis was used to identify parameters associated with mortality. SPSS version 17 (IBM Corp, NY) was used to perform the statistical analysis.

Results There were 247 patients with a diagnosis of CDAD made in 2011 at LHTT of which 16 were wrongly coded, 5 were treated in the community, 12 had insufficient information in the notes and in 68 patients the medical notes could not be traced. A total of 170 episodes in 146 patients were finally analysed. There were 36 deaths in this group. Patients who were dead were older (mean age 78±12.9 vs 76.6±17.6). Independent predictors of mortality on multivariate analysis included age (OR 1.051, 95% CI 1.009–1.095), Charlson co-morbidity score of ≥3 (OR 3.036, 95% CI 1.209–7.622), Horn Index (Major or Extreme) (OR 4.725, 95% CI 1.818–12.283), Severe CDAD (OR 3.454, 95% CI 1.222–9.760) and in-appropriate treatment of severe CDAD with metronidazole as first line therapy (OR 4.642, 95% CI 1.213–19.193). Factors not found significant included gender, prior use of antibiotics, PPI use, opioid use, prior episodes of CDAD and treatment with vancomycin.

Conclusion Predictors of all-cause mortality in patients with CDAD include older age, Charlson score ≥3, Horn index ≥3, severe CDAD as defined by the UK HPA and in-appropriate use of metronidazole in severe CDAD. Patients with severe CDAD should not be treated with Metronidazole as first line therapy. Further prospective validation of these results is needed in a multicenter setting.

Disclosure of Interest None Declared.

PTH-027 STOPPING PROTON PUMP INHIBITORS TO PREVENT CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE: IS IT POSSIBLE AND DOES IT HELP?

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Introduction Hypochlorhydria due to proton pump inhibitor (PPI) therapy is associated with increased susceptibility and propensity to relapse from infection due to *C difficile*. The Health Protection Agency guidance advises review of PPI use in patients with CDAD. We have done a retrospective audit of patients with CDAD examining PPI use and any benefit achieved by stopping the PPI.

Methods All patients with CDAD between 2010–12 were reviewed by infection control nurses and advised the attending doctors to stop any PPI therapy where a clear indication was not obvious. We have retrospectively audited patient's relevant baseline characteristics, clinical outcome, length of hospital stay and PPI prescription at hospital discharge. In addition we followed patients up for 90 days post discharge recording PPI prescription and further CDAD.

Results 75 patients, 38 taking a PPI (mean age 77 stD) and 37 not taking a PPI (mean age 72 StD). No difference was seen for antibiotic use, co morbidity, immunosuppression, recent surgery, enteral feeding or dependency. At hospital discharge of those taking a PPI 12/38 (32%) had died. The PPI was stopped in 17/26 (65%), further CDAD occurred in 3 taking a PPI and 5 not. Of those not taking a PPI on hospital admission 16/37 (43%) died by hospital discharge and at 90 days 4 developed further CDAD.

Conclusion It was possible to stop PPI prescription in 65% of patients presenting with CDAD. We found no evidence that CDAD was more severe in patients taking a PPI or that there was reduced recurrence of CDAD in patients who had stopped taking their PPI or had never taken it.

Disclosure of Interest None Declared.

PTH-028 IS FLEXIBLE SIGMOIDOSCOPY EVER ENOUGH? AN AUDIT OF THE RATES OF PROXIMAL DISEASE DURING COLONOSCOPY

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Introduction There is debate about appropriate initial endoscopic investigation of patients with symptoms suggestive of colorectal cancer. Thompson (2008) proposed that for patients without iron deficiency anaemia or abdominal mass; Flexible Sigmoidoscopy (FS) should be first line with further colonoscopy only if significant distal colonic disease was detected. A proximal cancer miss rate of 1:500 patients over 60 years and 1:3000 below this age was reported. It was argued that this approach would significantly reduce costs and burden on patients.

However Lieberman (2000) reported 2.7% of asymptomatic patients screened with colonoscopy had proximal neoplasms without distal disease.

We have applied the Thompson criteria to our unit's colonoscopy data to establish the rate of disease, both neoplastic and other, proximal to the splenic flexure which would have been missed by performing FS alone.

Methods All colonoscopies performed in our unit over 2 months were examined and those which met the Thompson criteria for FS were included. The procedure and pathology reports were reviewed and the number with proximal but without distal disease, and type of pathology was established. Adenoma with low grade dysplasia (LGD) was the minimum classification for neoplasm.

Results 342 colonoscopies were reviewed and 200 met the Thompson criteria for FS. 17 (8.5%) patients had proximal disease without distal disease, of which 9 (53%) were neoplastic and 8 (47%) had significant other disease (87.5% inflammatory). Of the 82 patients > 60 years, it was found that 10 (12.1%) had significant disease, of which 8 (80%) were neoplastic (6 tubular adenoma with LGD, 2 tubulovillous adenoma with LGD). Of the 118 < 60 years, 7 (5.9%) had significant disease (85% inflammatory) and 1 (15%) neoplastic.

Conclusion 4.5% of patients who would have had a FS using Thompson criteria were found to have a proximal neoplasm. This is