

Joint working in young onset dementia: Leeds collaboration between neurology and psychiatry

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June 2024

Overview

- Joint clinic
- Leeds Young People with Dementia Service (psychiatry-led)
- Leeds Neurology Cognitive Service (neurology-led)

- Services Evaluation

- Pros and cons and developments

- Questions

RECEIPT OF REFERRAL

SCREENING/
TRIAGE

- MDT Members:**
- Doctors
 - Nurses
 - Occupational therapist
 - Neuropsychologist
 - Clinical team manager

JOINT CLINIC WITH
NEUROLOGY

NURSE/OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPIST ASSESSMENT

SENIOR MEDICAL
ASSESSMENT

ASSESSMENT

ADVICE AND GUIDANCE
AND DISCHARGE

FURTHER TESTING
IMAGING: MRI, PET-CT, DAT
CSF ANALYSIS
NEUROPSYCHOLOGY ASSESSMENT

DIAGNOSIS

DIAGNOSIS

POST DIAGNOSTIC SUPPORT

LEEDS DEMENTIA HUB

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

DISCHARGE

JOINT CLINIC

- Monthly clinic
- 2 consultants (psychiatrist plus neurologist) +- trainee
- Patient assessments and shared care reviews

- 1 hour new
- 30 mins follow up
- Additional discussion time

JOINT MEMORY CLINIC

PATIENT ASSESSMENTS

Accurate diagnosis
Referrals for LP
Choice of imaging
LTHT neuropsychology
Genetics referrals

SHARED CARE REVIEWS

Assign correct pathway
Diagnostic challenge
Managing myoclonic jerks
Managing epilepsy
Managing parkinsonism

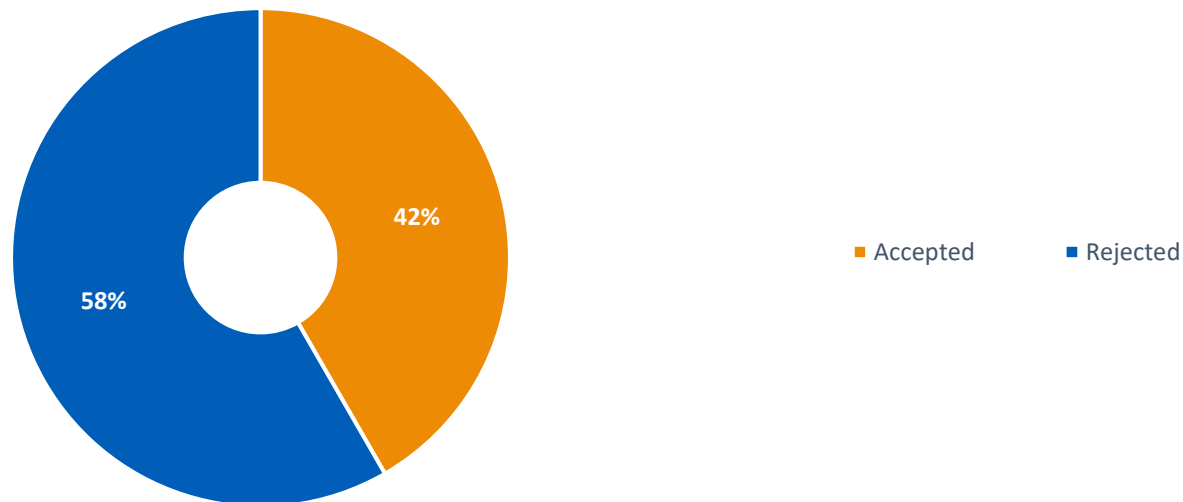
EXAMPLES

- Alzheimer's and Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
- FTD and vascular dementia
- Metabolic encephalopathy
- Prion diseases
- Alzheimer's and Vascular Dementia on a background of MS & Epilepsy
- Functional Cognitive Disorder
- Alzheimer's with pre-existing Bipolar or other mental health issues

SERVICE EVALUATION

- April 2022 to April 2023 – 475 referrals received
- Advice and Guidance provided to 277 case referrals

Less than half of the referrals were accepted



SERVICE EVALUATION

- Team accepted 198 referrals and carried out triage for 92 referrals
- 25 patients were sign-posted and team reviewed 131 patients
- Of 131 patients, 104 were diagnosed and 42 were given Post diagnostic support (PDS)

SERVICE EVALUATION

- Average time to first assessment from referral = 4 months (3-498 days)
- Average time to neuropsychology assessment= 8 months (34-334 days)
- Average time to diagnosis from referral= 8 months (3-559 days)
- Average time to Post diagnostic support = 44 days (7-132 days)

Leeds Neurology Cognitive Service (LNCS)

- Embedded within the neurology department
- Accept referrals from across the UK
- No exclusion criteria though may signpost to other services if appropriate (including joint clinic)
- 1-2 clinics per week

Service evaluation of LNCS

- Average age 58 years, 49% F
- Most common diagnosis: dementia (35%)
 - Mostly Alzheimer's, of whom 53% young onset
 - Also: bvFTD, PPA, DLB, VaD
- Other diagnosis: cognitive impairment secondary to other conditions (33%) and subjective cognitive symptoms (17%)

Development of the joint clinic

- Multidisciplinary approach to both diagnosis and treatment
- Combining expertise of psychiatrist, neurologist and psychologist
- Real-time

What does joint working help with? (1)

- Diagnostic difficulties (very early or late presentations, normal structural scan, neuro & psych co-morbidities)
- Access to and interpretation of biomarkers & genetics
- Difficult discussions
- Symptom management
- Post diagnostic support

What does joint working help with? (2)

- Our own learning and continued professional development
- Integration of services
- Service development
- Research activity

What can we improve

- More clinics
- Streamline more
- Real-time input from allied health professionals
- Reduce duplication of work

Next steps

- New drugs for Alzheimer's
 - Identify people for treatment ('triage for treatment clinic')
 - Giving treatment ('treatment clinic')
- Develop regional services
 - CSF, amyloid PET, blood biomarkers
- Different clinics
 - MCI
 - Brain Health

Thank you

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