

is to help adults with severe mental illness obtain and maintain competitive work in the community and provide the support necessary throughout the entire process and follow-up after successful inclusion. The aim of this paper is to evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has had upon the Programme and to analyse the main causes of clients' drop-off despite the fact the modifications were put in order to keep running the service during the lockdown.

Methods. Retrospective analysis of case records of the Supported Employment Programme from 1 January 2020 to 31 December of 2020.

Different variables were analysed to identify the main causes of dropout. Between them, variables related to the digital divide, fear of COVID-19, and increased economic vulnerability.

Results. At the beginning of 2020, the programme had 51 users and received 11 referrals throughout the year, of whom 8 users were finally admitted. Therefore, 59 users entered this sample, 40.7% were women ($n=24$) and 59.3% were men ($n=35$). Mean age 40.4, ranging from 18 to 65 years of age ($sd = 11.6$). No significant differences were found in sex, age, or level of instruction between participants. The dropout rate after the lockdown was introduced reached 50.3% ($n = 30$), and there were no significant differences between those who left the programme and those who continued, with respect to sex, age, or level of instruction. Significant differences were found between these two groups in access to Technology ($T = -6.158$ $p < 0.000$); Digital illiteracy ($T = -3.247$ $p < 0.003$); fear of getting COVID-19 (-7.616 $p < 0.000$). However, having obtained a job through the programme was a protective factor against leaving, and only one user out of nine who got a job through the programme dropped out. This difference was at the significant level ($T = 2.671$ $p < 0.05$).

Conclusion. Even though, in an attempt to keep the Programme running during the strict lockdown that was imposed during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, moving the face-to-face interviews to remote ones through digital platforms did not guarantee the access to service. The digital divide was one of the main causes of dropout of users. It is important to point out the protective value that had to have obtained a job through the programme against leaving.

Abstracts were reviewed by the RCPsych Academic Faculty rather than by the standard *BJPsych Open* peer review process and should not be quoted as peer-reviewed by *BJPsych Open* in any subsequent publication.

Serum Prolactin Level Monitoring in Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotic Treatment: Evaluating the Current Practice in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates

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doi: 10.1192/bjo.2023.373

Aims. The use of antipsychotics in children and adolescents requires close supervision in a specialist clinic. The decision to commence antipsychotics should be made jointly with the young person, their parents, carers, and healthcare professionals. It is critical to provide age-appropriate information and discuss the possible benefits and side effects, including raised serum prolactin levels, potentially leading to serious consequences such as reduced bone density and abnormal pubertal development. This audit aimed to appraise the antipsychotic prescribing practice in children and

adolescents in psychiatric outpatient clinicians in Al Ain Hospital, United Arab Emirates. The authors analysed the compliance against the standards set out in The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Clinical Guidance 155 concerning monitoring prolactin levels in children on antipsychotic medications at baseline, 12 weeks, and every six months thereafter.

Methods. This Hospital-wide audit involved a retrospective review of case notes. A questionnaire was developed to capture the required information anonymously. The audit sample comprised 135 children under the age of 16 who were on antipsychotics for more than six months and were followed up in the child psychiatry clinic between January 2018 and December 2019. We chose this pre-Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) period when services were running as usual. Data collection took place between September and December 2022.

Results. Out of 135, 28 (21%) patients were males, with 51 (38%) being Emirati citizens. The sample age ranged between 6 and 16 years, with a mean of 13.5 years. Risperidone was the most commonly used antipsychotic. The majority of patients (63%) had a diagnosis of psychosis in the context of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autistic Spectrum Disorder, and intellectual disability. None of the patients had a baseline prolactin measurement performed, while only 10 (7%) had prolactin levels checked at 12 weeks. No patient had prolactin levels checked at six-monthly intervals.

Conclusion. This audit has identified a clear need to develop local guidance on monitoring antipsychotic side effects in children and adolescents. We recommend enhanced staff training in monitoring for the relevant side effects and introducing a mechanism to electronically alert the prescribing clinician when the time of monitoring is due. We suggest educating the patients about symptoms of high prolactin levels and re-audit the practice after one year of implementing the above action plan.

No financial sponsorship has been received for this evaluative exercise.

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Electroconvulsive Therapy: Evaluating the Current Practice in Al Ain Hospital, the United Arab Emirates

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doi: 10.1192/bjo.2023.374

Aims. Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) has been used since the 1930s for the treatment of depressive illness, mania and catatonia. This audit aimed to appraise the ECT pathway followed by the Behavioral Sciences Institute at Al Ain Hospital, United Arab Emirates. The authors analysed the pathway's compliance against the standards set out in the local Al Ain Hospital guidelines and The Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych) standards, with a particular focus on capacity and consent issues.

Methods. This audit involved a retrospective review of case notes. After obtaining the relevant ethical approval for the audit, we collected the case notes of all patients who received ECT over a period of three years between May 2019 and June