

This study shows that OPAT is safe, clinically efficacious and acceptable for treating a wide range of infections with high levels of patient satisfaction and substantial cost savings” Durojaiye et al (2017).

Abstract

Outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy (OPAT) has evolved relatively slowly in the UK. This study describes the OPAT service based in a large UK teaching hospital in Sheffield, and examines the clinical efficacy, patient acceptability and costs saved over a 10-year period. Data on 3812 episodes of OPAT treatment administered between January 2006 and January 2016 were retrieved from a prospectively maintained electronic database. This study compared the real costs of the OPAT service with estimated costs of conventional inpatient care for these patient episodes, and analysed patient feedback questionnaires that were administered randomly between January 2014 and January 2015. A wide range of infections were managed during the 10-year period.

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Skin and soft tissue infections accounted for 57% of OPAT episodes. The total number of bed-days saved was 49 854. A successful outcome (cure or improvement) was found in 3357 (88%) episodes. Re-admission occurred in 265 (7%) episodes. The rates of healthcare-associated infections were low: 15 intravenous-line-related infections were recorded (0.3 per 1000 OPAT patient-days). Patient acceptance and satisfaction with OPAT were high. OPAT cost 15%, 39%, 40% and 44% of inpatient costs for an infectious diseases unit, national average costs, other departments (non-infectious diseases unit), and the minimum national average costs for each diagnostic category, respectively. This study shows that OPAT is safe, clinically efficacious and acceptable for treating a wide range of infections with high levels of patient satisfaction and substantial cost savings.

Reference:

Durojaiye, O.C., Bell, H., Andrews, D., Ntziora, F. and Cartwright, K. (2017) Clinical



efficacy, cost analysis and patient acceptability of outpatient parenteral antibiotic therapy (OPAT): a decade of sheffield (UK) OPAT service. International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents. June 30th. .

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