neuromotor problems. Targeted intervention can be offered to those with abnormal findings improving final outcome.

Quality Improvement and Patient Safety

1305

STAFF WELLBEING AND TEAM MORALE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AT BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

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Background Covid-19 has significantly impacted the nations day-to-day life and inevitably affected the workplace too. The NHS has been under visible unprecedented stress and consequently staff have carried the burden. The general paediatricians at Birmingham Children's Hospital wanted to understand how the medical staff felt they could be supported during this difficult time

Objectives To assess the wellbeing and team morale amongst medical staff within the General Paediatrics team at Birmingham Children's Hospital (BCH) during the Covid-19 pandemic and implement a new method to improve wellbeing and team morale.

Methods A questionnaire was created and distributed to the medical staff working within the General Paediatrics team at BCH. Questions were formulated following research relating to existing staff wellbeing questionnaires and current literature regarding the effects of Covid-19 on mental health, wellbeing and team morale.

Results Twenty-two staff members completed the questionnaire which represented their experience over the last month. Fifteen (68.2%) looked forward to going to work and nineteen reported feeling 'happy, smiling and laughing at work' when asked. However, 27.3% only felt appreciated at work a few times a month or less and 31.7% stated that their good work was acknowledged less than a few times a month. Twelve felt that they needed someone to talk to at work and four felt unable to confide in a colleague at least a few times a month. 50% felt then needed some time alone during a break at work. 81.8% admitted that Covid-19 had affected their mental health or wellbeing, 50% felt socially isolated as a result of Covid-19 and 95.5% felt worried about their health or the health of family/friends as a result of Covid-19. Seventeen staff members felt that Covid-19 had affected team morale and eighteen felt that knowing their colleagues better would improve team morale and make them more likely to confide in them if needed.

Conclusions This evaluation highlights that the majority of staff at BCH felt Covid-19 had affected their mental health, wellbeing and the General Paediatric team morale. It stressed the importance building colleague relationships to support each other during this worrisome time. A 'Let's Strike Up a Conversation' matchbox activity was created in response to the findings to initiate non-covid and work-related conversation during work breaks. The matchbox had conversation starting 'Match cards' within to stimulate and improve team communications and encourage staff to get to know each other. The effects of this intervention are to be evaluated in due course. The assessment of staff wellbeing and team morale has highlighted the importance of actively surveying the team during new and unexpected changes/circumstances.

Early recognition facilitates early response and adjustments to boost team morale and wellbeing.

British Association of Perinatal Medicine and Neonatal Society

1306

USE OF ESTER IMPREGNATED PH STRIPS IN IDENTIFICATION OF GASTRIC PLACEMENT OF FEEDING TUBES IN NEONATES: A DIAGNOSTIC ACCURACY AND PROFESSIONALS' PERCEPTION STUDY

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Background Naso or oro-gastric feeding tubes are essential component of care in providing nutrition and medication in neonatal units. The existing standard pH strips lack sensitivity. As a result, neonates may require re-insertion or some cases require unnecessary x-rays. A new generation of ester impregnated pH strips have been developed, utilising human pre-duodenal gastric lipase (HGL), which is only present in the stomach, to improve sensitivity of the test strips to gastric placements.

Objectives 1) to assess the sensitivity of the novel ester impregnated pH test strip compared to the standard pH strips. 2) to assess healthcare professionals' perception of the standard pH test strips and the ester-impregnated pH strips.

Methods We carried out a prospective observational diagnostic accuracy study at the neonatal units of two NHS hospitals comparing the ester-impregnated strips to the standard pH strips. The primary end point is the sensitivity of the pH tests at the recommended pH cut-off of 5.5. We also carried out an online survey with healthcare professionals involved in the study to qualitatively assess through validated scales their perceived usability, trust and acceptance of the standard pH test strips and the general perception of the HGL, enhanced pH test strip. The study was funded by NIHR Innovate UK, received research ethics approval from HRA (REC ref: 19/LO/1726) and was registered in the clinicaltrials.gov website (NCT04271995).

Results A total of 233 samples were collected from 141 infants with the median gestation age of 32 weeks (range 23–41 weeks). The sensitivities of the standard and novel pH tests were respectively 82.0% (95% CI: 77.0%-86.9%) and 90.1% (95% CI: 86.3%-94.0%) under pH cut-off of 5.5. Term babies had significantly lower pH compared to pre-term babies (mean pH: 3.7 versus 4.3, $p=0.03$). Aspirates from neonates fed by mother or donor expressed milk had significantly lower pH compared to neonates fed by formula milk (mean pH: 4.01 versus 4.78, $p<0.001$).

A total of 17 health care professionals completed the online survey, which reported a high level of perceived usability for the standard pH test strips (82.20%). As well as a