

Results 157 children (mean 11.6 years; range 2 months – 17.8 years) were identified. 56 children (36%) had a cardiomyopathy, 23 (15%) had structural heart disease and 78 (50%) were receiving bisoprolol with a structural normal heart for the prevention or treatment of arrhythmias. 149 children had a weight documented. The starting dose of bisoprolol ranged from 0.02 mg/kg/day to 0.19 mg/kg/day (mean 0.06 mg/kg/day); independent of the indication. The dose was up titrated in 90 (57%) of children. The weight was documented in 77 of these patients and up-titrated doses in these patients ranged from 0.02 mg/kg/day to 0.4 mg/kg/day (mean 0.14 mg/kg/day). A total of 24 (15%) of children had documented adverse events attributed to bisoprolol. Fatigue or dizziness were the most common reported adverse events, with 67% of the total events. In total, 5 children (3%) stopped bisoprolol due to adverse events; 4 due to fatigue or dizziness and 1 because of wheeze in a known asthmatic. HR was documented before and after initiation of bisoprolol in 89 patients (57%). The mean change was a decrease of 8 beats per minute (bpm) and all were within normal limits. Systolic blood pressure (BP) was documented before and after initiation of bisoprolol in 61 patients (39%). The mean change was a reduction of 4.2 millimeters of mercury (mmHg) and all were within normal limits.

Conclusion Our experience shows that initiating bisoprolol in paediatric cardiology patients with a cardiomyopathy, structural heart disease and normal structural heart, to treat arrhythmias, heart failure, outflow tract obstruction and systemic hypertension at a dose of 0.06 mg/kg once a day, up to a maintenance dose of 0.14 mg/kg/day was safe. However, this is limited by the sample size and retrospective nature of the study. Further studies are needed to be able to comment on the efficacy in this cohort of patients.

P11

ADAPTATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STANDARDISED CONCENTRATIONS AND GUARDRAILS TECHNOLOGY IN PAEDIATRIC INTENSIVE CARE

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Context Implementation of standardised concentrations of continuous infusions (SCCI) in paediatrics and guardrails technology on smart pumps significantly reduces medication errors and improves patient safety.¹⁻³ There is a national drive to implement SCCI coupled with guardrails technology on smart pumps, driven by the Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group (NPPG) and Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH).²⁻³ The merger of two specialist paediatric hospitals prompted alignment of governance processes, of which SCCI implementation across the organisation was key. This article focuses on Hospital B's experience of implementing SCCI and guardrails, utilizing resources from Hospital A, who implemented in 2018.³

Methods A team led by pharmacists was convened to lead this quality improvement initiative, linking with Hospital A, to obtain resources including the guardrails library (dataset) and learning from their experience. Hospital B's pharmacists engaged with key stakeholders within paediatrics including a consultant, nurse educator, QI lead nurse and bedside nurse, to review, adapt and validate the library to suit their patient

cohort. Plan Do Study Act cycles were used to continuously improve the process of implementation. A staff education session was conducted, outlining the importance and use of SCCI and guardrails.

Results The dataset obtained from Hospital A required some adaptation across 49 drugs; 18 drugs were removed as not routinely used at Hospital B. 71% (22/31) of the adapted standard concentrations were similar whilst 29% (9/31) were amended.

100% of the dataset underwent changes, mostly minor; 12 drugs had units amended whilst 28 of the default doses, 18 of the soft minimum doses, 20 of the soft maximum doses and 23 of the hard max doses were amended.

Rationale for these changes include a slightly different patient cohort in Hospital B; mainly with fluid restriction in patients post-surgery requiring higher doses of sedation and inotropes. Additionally, the SCCI were tailored in line with guidelines, available formulations/strengths such as ready-to-use esmolol and to the adult cohort to aid familiarity, facilitating cross-working between adult and paediatric wards. And for guardrails, minimum or default doses were reduced to enable the lowest dose to be given whilst maximum doses were increased. All changes were to align to guidelines, BNFC or local practice. Unit changes were made to ensure familiarity.

Conclusions and Lessons Learned In conclusion 'one size does not fit all' and using a dataset without adapting it to context poses safety risks. Adaptation of datasets by individuals tailored to local practice and patient cohort is key for successful and safe implementation. This is aligned with the evidence translation literature, which recognises that adoption of changes is complex and context dependent.⁴

Key learning points include engagement of key stakeholders is essential to ensure good communication and buy-in. Tailoring of datasets to meet patient needs is vital; considering PDSA cycles and the test, learn and scale up approach. Comprehensive education and training is crucial to ensure correct utilisation and safety, particularly as implementing changes poses increased risk of medication errors.

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P12

AN AUDIT OF THE USE OF DEXMETETOMIDINE FOR SEDATION IN A TERTIARY PICU

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Aim Dexmedetomidine is a selective central alpha-2 adrenergic receptor agonist. It induces sedation closely mimicking natural sleep, reduces anxiety and has sympatholytic effects – without having a clinically significant effect on respiratory function. Dexmedetomidine has a short half-life and quick onset of action, which have resulted in it being increasingly