

**ORIGINAL PAPERS**

**THE EFFICACY AND TOLERABILITY OF LEVETIRACETAM AS A FIRST LINE MONOTHERAPY IN CHILDHOOD EPILEPSY.....P18**

Connolly et al describe their collective experience with Levetiracetam in 182 children with epilepsy. 75% achieved seizure freedom or >50% reduction in seizure control. In 16% of cases the medication was discontinued because of side-effects. [\[Read Article\]](#)

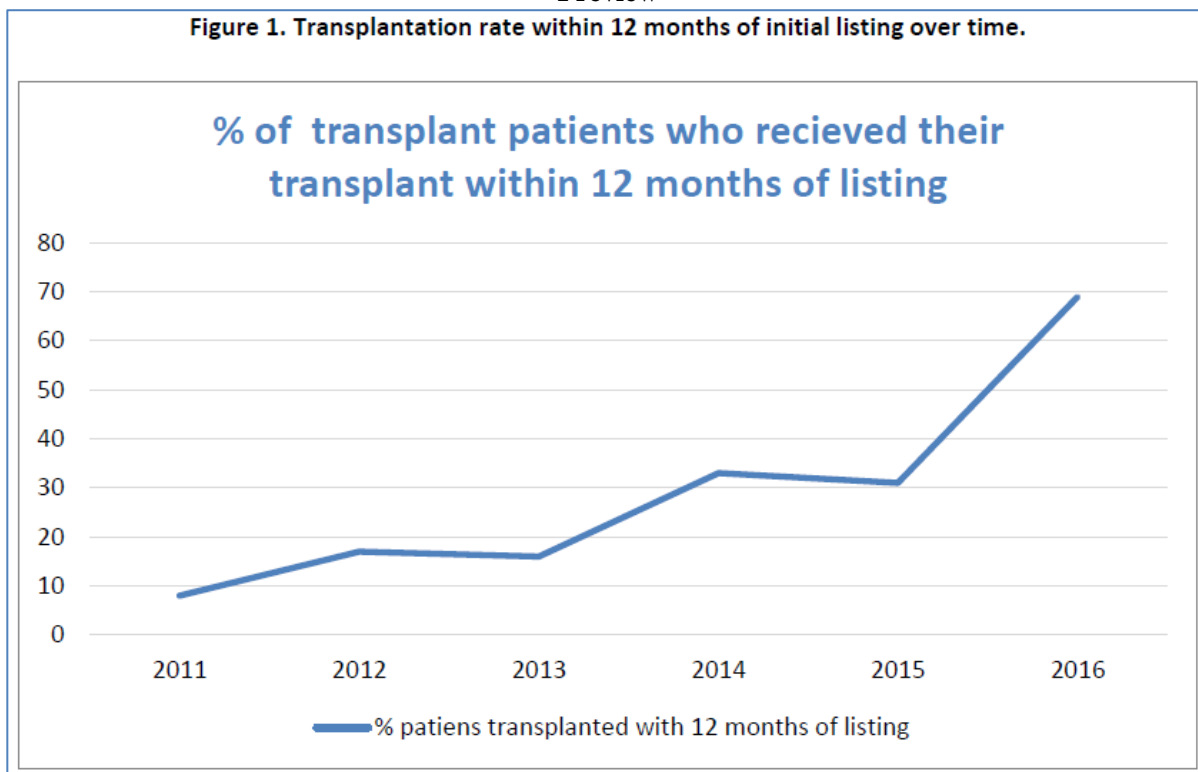
-Preview-

<b>Table 2. Patient profiles and response to Levetiracetam at 12 months (n=139)</b>					
<b>Variable (n)</b>	<b>Response rate (139)</b>			<b>Test score</b>	<b>p</b>
	<b>Seizure free &gt; 6 months</b>	<b>&gt; 50% Seizure reduction</b>	<b>No improvement</b>		
	<b>(75/139)</b>	<b>(29/139)</b>	<b>(35/139)</b>		
<b>Age (138) (median)</b>	3 years	3 years	5 years	0.87 <sup>1</sup>	>0.05
<b>Gender (139)</b>	<b>% (n)</b>	<b>% (n)</b>	<b>% (n)</b>		
Female (85)	45% (38)	25% (21)	31% (26)	N/A <sup>2</sup>	<0.05*
Male (54)	68% (37)	15% (8)	17% (9)		
<b>Seizure Semiology (139)</b>					
Focal (63)	54% (34)	22% (14)	24% (15)	N/A <sup>2</sup>	>0.05
Generalised (64)	53% (34)	20% (13)	27% (17)		
Both (12)	58% (7)	17% (2)	25% (3)		
<b>Underlying condition present (139)</b>					
Yes (63)	46% (29)	27% (17)	27% (17)	N/A <sup>2</sup>	>0.05
No (76)	61% (46)	16% (12)	24% (18)		
<sup>1</sup> Kruskal-Wallis test					
<sup>2</sup> Fishers exact test, score not produced					
*Significant					
N/A Not applicable					

THE IMPACT OF THE NEW STATE BODY FOR TRANSPLANTATION ON LUNG TRANSPLANTATION WAITING LIST MORTALITY.....P19

Organ donation Transplantation Ireland (ODTI) was established in 2014. Since its commencement the waiting list mortality has decreased from 46% to 33%. [\[Read Article\]](#)

-Preview-



TRENDS IN MENTAL HEALTH PRESENTATIONS TO A PAEDIATRIC EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT...P20

Fitzgerald et al report that the number of presentations have increased from 69 (2006) to 432 (2016). The overall admission rate was 33%. [\[Read Article\]](#)

-Preview-

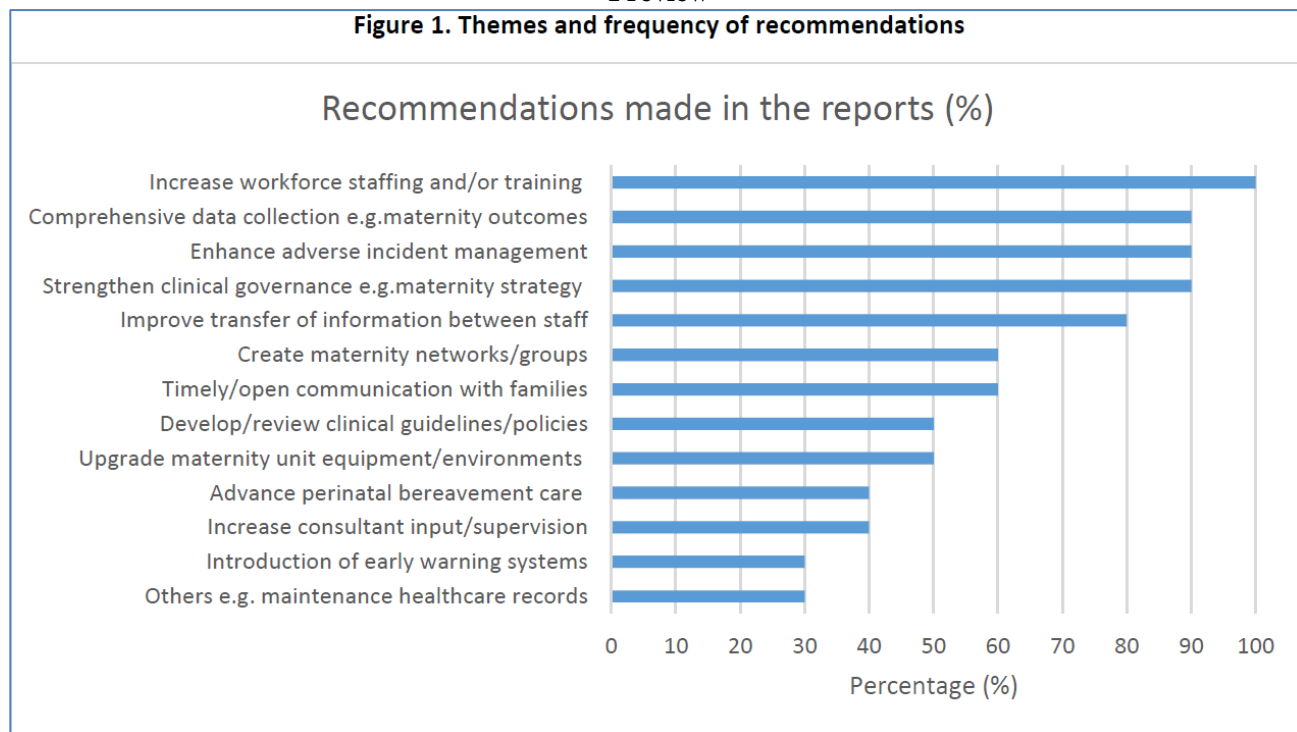
	Total Numbers	No. of admissions	Admission rate (%)	Out of hours rate (%)
Suicidal Ideation	103	48	46.6	62.1
Deliberate Self Harm	92	27	29.3	62.0
Depression	33	12	36.4	36.4
Panic Attacks/Anxiety	21	0	0.0	57.1
Behavioural	18	1	5.6	61.1
Eating Disorder	17	7	41.2	23.5
Psychosis	5	3	60.0	60.0
Other Psychiatric Complaint	8	1	12.5	37.5
Total	297	99	33.3	52.5

Table 1: Summary of the mental health presentations to the Emergency Department over a one year period (Sept 2013-August 2014)

IRISH INQUIRY REPORTS RELATING TO PERINATAL DEATHS AND PREGNANCY LOSS SERVICES.....P21

Helps et al state that there have been 10 national inquiry reports 2005-18 related to pregnancy loss services. 258 recommendations were made across the reports. They including more staff, better training, better data collection. Feedback from key stakeholders was only sought in 2 of the reports. [\[Read Article\]](#)

**-Preview-**



A ONE YEAR COST ANALYSIS OF ACUTE PAEDIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH PRESENTATIONS.....P22

McNicholas et al report that in 2018, 163 youths attended the ED and 122 were admitted. The yearly cost to the hospital was €1,028,020, an average of €8,426 per patient. [\[Read Article\]](#)

**-Preview-**

**Table 1. Details of AMH Attendances and Admissions (N=163)**

	Acute Mental Health Patients (N=163)	
<b>Age</b> (n = 163)	Mean = 13.6 Median =14	Range = 6-17 SD = 2.39
<b>Gender</b> (n = 163)	104 (64%) Female	59 (36%) Male
<b>Time of Presentation</b> (n=162)	89 (55%) ONWH 79 (89%) admitted	73 (45%) INWH 43 (59%) admitted
<b>Presence of Self-Harm</b> (n = 162)	Yes 56 (34.5%)	No 106 (65.5%)
<b>Presence of Suicidal Ideation</b> (n = 162)	Yes 57 (35%)	No 105 (65%)
<b>Social Work Involvement</b> (n = 160)	Yes 54 (34%)	No 106 (67%)
<b>Discharge Plans</b> (n= 162)	23 (14.2%) to Primary Care 128 (79%) to CAMHS OPD 10 (6.2%) Inpatient CAMHS 1 (0.6%) to Adult MH OPD	

Njoku and Iveson report a high prevalence of low vitamin D levels among stroke survivors with fatigue. The administration of vitamin D led to improvement in the patients' symptoms. [\[Read Article\]](#)

**-Preview-**

Variable	All patients (n=58)	Normal vitamin D (n=16)	Low vitamin D (n=42)	P value
Age group				
<75years	21(34.5%)	5(23.8%)	16(76.2%)	0.76
>75years	37(65.5%)	11(29.7%)	26(70.3%)	
Gender				
Female	33(56.9%)	10(30.3%)	23(69.7%)	0.77
Male	25(43.1%)	6(24.0%)	19(76.0%)	
Stroke severity				
TIA	10(17.2%)	5(50.0%)	5(50.0%)	0.12
Stroke	48(82.8%)	11(22.9%)	37(77.1%)	
Stroke Type				
Ischaemic	45(77.6%)	10(22.2%)	35(77.8%)	0.22
Haemorrhagic	3(5.2%)	1(33.3%)	2(66.7%)	
TIA	10(17.2%)	5(50%)	5(50%)	
Mobility				
Normal	31(53.4%)	7(22.6%)	24(77.4%)	0.40
Reduced	27(46.6%)	9(33.3%)	18(66.7%)	
MRS				
<4	46(79.3%)	14(30.4%)	32(69.6%)	0.48
>4	12(20.7%)	2(16.7%)	10(83.3%)	
Living condition				
Alone	16(27.6%)	2(12.5%)	14(87.5%)	0.19
Family/spouse	42(72.4%)	14(33.3%)	28(66.7%)	

### CONTINUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Please take our quiz (link below), at the Irish Medical Organisation to earn extra CPD/CME points.

[CPD QUIZ](#)