

COMMENTARY

DOOLIN MEMORIAL LECTURE 2019..... P1013

[\[Read Article\]](#)

EDITORIALS

PRE-HOSPITAL CARE IN IRELAND – INNOVATION NEEDED..... P1014

[\[Read Article\]](#)

OLDER PEOPLE: CANARIES IN THE COAL-MINE FOR HEALTH..... P1015

[\[Read Article\]](#)

ORIGINAL PAPERS

MEDIUM CHAIN ACYL-COA DEHYDROGENASE DEFICIENCY (MCADD) IN THE IRISH
PAEDIATRIC POPULATION.....P1016

Mesbah et al report that between 1998 and 2016 a total of 17 children were diagnosed with MCADD. The incidence was 1:71650. The median age at diagnosis was 1.48 years. It is the most common disorder of fatty acid oxidation. Newborn screening for MCADD was introduced in December 2018.

[\[Read Article\]](#)

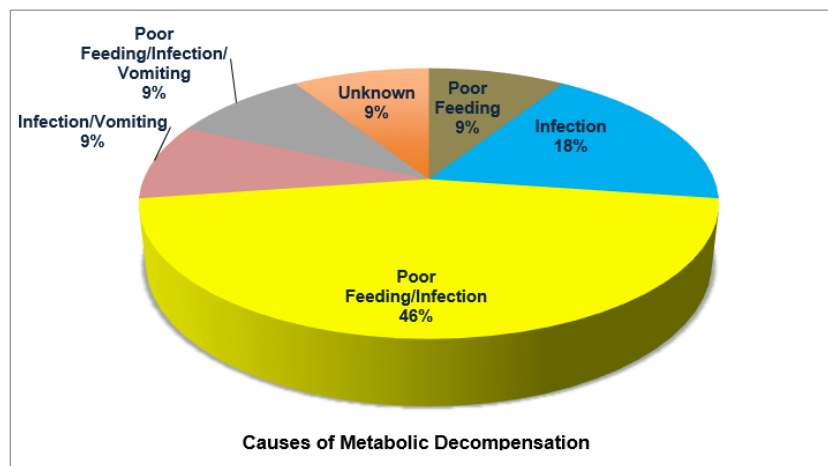


Figure 1: Chart showing most common causes and combinations which resulted in initial clinical decompensation and diagnoses in patients who survived.

THE SPECTRUM OF HISTOLOGICAL FINDINGS IN ORAL BIOPSIESP1017

Ahern et al describe the histological findings in oral biopsies. In June to December 2015, 724 biopsies were examined. The majority, 80.3% were normal, and the remainder consisted of malignant and potentially malignant disorders. Most of the biopsies were submitted by hospital-based units.

[\[Read Article\]](#)

Table 1: (i) Oral biopsy diagnostic categories; the number (N) of diagnoses in each category, and the corresponding proportion of the overall total (%T). (ii) The five most common diagnoses overall; the corresponding numbers (N) and proportions (%C) as submitted from each source category.						
(i) Diagnostic Category	N		%T			
Mucosal Pathology	353		48.9			
Odontogenic Cysts	90		12.4			
Benign Tumours	83		11.5			
Malignant Tumours	48		6.7			
Periodontal Pathology	46		6.3			
Miscellaneous Pathology	36		4.9			
Bone Pathology	22		3.0			
Dental Pathology	21		2.9			
Salivary Gland Pathology	18		2.5			
Non-Odontogenic Cysts	7		0.9			
Total	724		100			
(ii) Diagnosis	DDUH		PP		GH	
	N	(%C)	N	(%C)	N	(%C)
Fibroepithelial Hyperplasia	40	(38.8)	50	(48.6)	13	(12.6)
Epithelial Dysplasia	59	(62.8)	17	(18.1)	18	(19.1)
Lichen Planus /Lichenoid Reaction	26	(33.8)	46	(59.7)	5	(6.5)
Squamous Papilloma	14	(31.1)	24	(53.3)	7	(15.6)
Squamous Cell Carcinoma	10	(24.4)	0	(0)	31	(75.6)

SHOULD MRI BE THE IMAGING MODALITY OF CHOICE IN SUSPECTED APPENDICITIS DURING PREGNANCY?.....P1018

Donlon et al report a series of 29 pregnant patients with suspected appendicitis who were investigated with MRI. Two patients had radiological confirmation of acute appendicitis, 1 had equivocal MRI findings and proceeded to laparoscopy. The other 26 patients had normal MRIs.

[\[Read Article\]](#)

Imaging	Normal WCC	Elevated WCC (Mean level)	Normal CRP	Elevated CRP (Mean level)
Normal MRI	17	10 (15.2)	11	16 (48.6)
Appendicitis on MRI	0	2	0	2

Table 1. WCC and CRP trend.

CYANOTIC CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE MODES OF PRESENTATION AND PRENATAL DETECTIONP1019

Lynch et al report that the prenatal detection rate for critical congenital heart disease was 57%. Sub-analysis found that the diagnostic rate was 71% in hospitals offering a universal anomaly scan, and 29% in centres providing a limited service. One-year mortality was 10 fold higher in the postnatally diagnosed 15% vs 1.55%.

[\[Read Article\]](#)

Diagnosis	Total	Prenatal Detection Rate
TGA	27	21 (78%)
Aortic Coarctation	27	12 (44%)
HLHS	21	13 (62%)
Critical Aortic stenosis	10	4 (40%)
HRHS	10	8 (80%)
Interrupted Aortic Arch	7	4 (57%)
Critical pulmonary stenosis	5	2 (40%)
Tetralogy of fallot/critical PS	2	2 (100%)
Obstructed TAPVD	2	0 (0%)
Severe LVOTO	1	0 (0%)
Severe Polyvalvar dysplasia	1	0 (0%)

Table 2. Prenatal detection by cardiac diagnosis.

ADOLESCENTS PRESENTING WITH MENTAL HEALTH CRISES.....P1020

Gadancheva et al describe 77 youths who presented with either self harm, suicidal ideation, or low mood/ anxiety. Following assessment the majority were referred to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

[\[Read Article\]](#)

Age (n = 77)	Mean = 16.7 years Range = 16.2-17.1, SD = 0.5	
Gender (n = 77)	45 (58%) Female 32 (42%) Male	
Source referral	Self: 58, 75% GP: 16, 21% Police: 3, 4%	
Time of Presentation (n=77)	58 (75%) ONWH 19 (25%) normal working hours	19, 25% weekend
Presence of DSH (n = 77)	Yes 34 (44%) Method: OD 26, 76%; Cutting: 7, 21% Attempted hanging: 1	
Presence of Suicidal Ideation (SI) (n = 77)	Yes 28 (36%)	
Repeat presentation (n = 77)	Yes 6, 8%	
Prior MH Contact (n = 77)	Yes, CAMHS 25, 35% Yes, Primary care MH: 20, 28% None: 32, 37%	
Assessment (n = 77)	Axis I Dx: 39, 55% Axis II: Autistic Spectrum disorder: 6, 9% Axis III. Medical Diagnosis: 10, 13% Axis IV: Psycho-social issues: 51, 66%	
Discharge Plans (n= 77)	13 (18%) to Primary Care 55 (78%) to CAMHS OPD 2 (5%) medical ward admission 1 (3%) Inpatient AMHS admission	

Clinical Descriptives, N=77.

Table 2: Acute Mental Health Presentations (N=77)

PROGNOSTIC IMPORTANCE OF PATHOLOGICAL FRACTURES IN OSTEOSARCOMAS.....P1021

Sheridan et al have investigated the relationship between pathological fractures in osteosarcomas and the subsequent prognosis. In the series there were 15 fracture cases and 117 non-fracture cases. Fractures did affect survival rates but they were associated with inferior post-chemotherapy necrosis rates.

[\[Read Article\]](#)

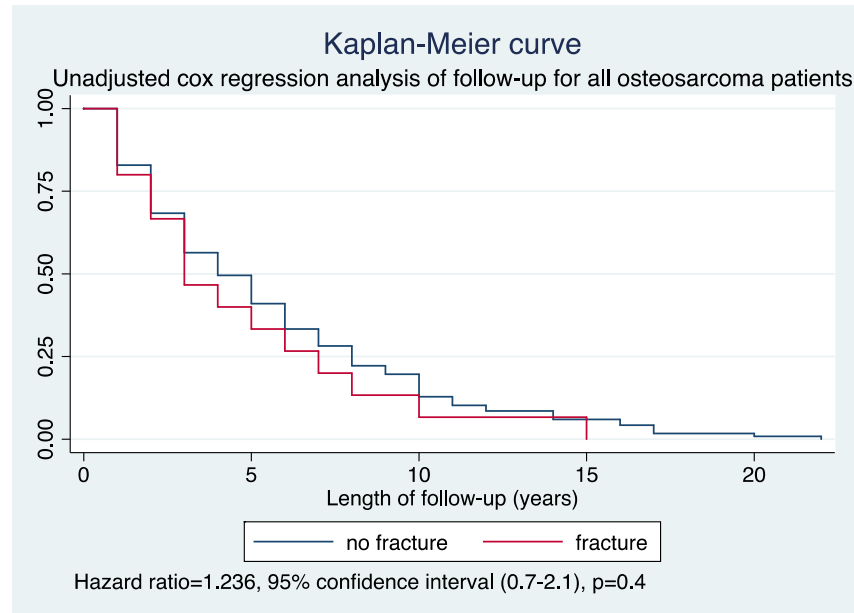


Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier Curve: Fracture Effect on Length of Survival

WOMEN'S OPINIONS ON CARDIOTOCOGRAPH MONITORING AND STAFF COMMUNICATION DURING LABOURP1022

McMahon et al surveyed 48 mothers about their labour experience. All women said that the CTG was explained to them. 97.9% felt confident that the staff knew what they were doing and a similar proportion felt included in the clinical decision-making.

[\[Read Article\]](#)

Question	Yes	No
Did the staff caring for you explain your baby's heart rate monitoring to you?	48 (100%)	0 (0%)
If yes, were you satisfied with this communication?	45 (93.8%)	3 (6.2%)
Was another member of staff called into the room to offer a second opinion on the baby's heart rate monitoring?	44 (91.7%)	4 (8.3%)
If yes, were you satisfied with the communication from the second person?	40 (83.3%)	8 (16.7%)
Did you feel confident that the staff knew what they were doing?	47 (97.9%)	1 (2.1%)
Did you feel included in any decision that was made about your care as a result of your baby's heart rate findings?	43 (89.6%)	5 (10.4%)
Is there anything that you wanted to know about your baby's heart rate monitoring at the time but didn't ask?	10 (20.8%)	38 (79.2%)

Table 2. Questionnaire Responses

HAVE LEGISLATIVE INTERVENTIONS IMPACTED THE INCIDENCE OF NEEDLESTICK

INJURIES?.....P1023

O'Sullivan and Gallagher have addressed the issue of needlestick injuries. Their main finding is that there was not a reduction in needlestick injuries after the introduction of the EU 'safer sharps' regulations. Doctors and nurses sustained the most sharps injuries followed by the support staff. Regular training of healthcare workers who use sharps is important.

[\[Read Article\]](#)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Characteristics: N (%)						
Job category						
- Doctor	51 (32)	70 (34)	76 (45)	63 (37)	60 (38)	320 (37)
- Nurse	82 (52)	91 (44)	59 (29)	63 (37)	57 (36)	352 (41)
- Health & social care professionals	5 (3)	11 (5)	6 (4)	7 (4)	9 (6)	38 (4)
- Support staff	15 (9)	24 (12)	19 (11)	29 (17)	23 (15)	110 (13)
- Midwives	6 (4)	11 (5)	9 (5)	10 (6)	8 (5)	44 (5)
- Total	159	207	169	172	157	864
Hospital Area						
- Patient room/ward	71 (45)	90 (44)	70 (41)	60 (35)	66 (42)	357 (41)
- Emergency Department	19 (12)	25 (12)	16 (10)	20 (12)	19 (12)	99 (12)
- Intensive Care	3 (2)	4 (2)	2 (1)	8 (5)	2 (1)	19 (2)
- Theatre	30 (19)	43 (21)	39 (23)	33 (19)	28 (18)	173 (20)
- Treatment room	6 (4)	15 (7)	11 (7)	13 (8)	8 (5)	53 (6)
- Other	16 (10)	22 (10)	16 (10)	23 (13)	19 (12)	96 (11)
- Labour ward/theatre	10 (6)	6 (3)	12 (7)	10 (6)	8 (5)	46 (5)
- Neonatal Unit	3 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (1)	5 (1)
- CUMH OPD/ED	1 (1)	2 (1)	2 (1)	1 (1)	2 (1)	8 (1)
- Missing	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	4 (2)	3 (2)	8 (1)
- Total	159	207	169	172	157	864
Device causing the NSI						
- Disposable syringe with needle	34 (21)	42 (20)	21 (12)	23 (13)	23 (15)	143 (17)
- Miscellaneous needle	36 (23)	57 (28)	32 (19)	37 (22)	36 (23)	198 (23)
- Stilette	10 (6)	8 (4)	17 (10)	10 (6)	9 (6)	54 (6)
- Vacuette needle	9 (6)	12 (6)	16 (10)	19 (11)	22 (14)	78 (9)
- Syringe with pre-filled cartridge	15 (9)	37 (18)	18 (11)	18 (11)	13 (8)	101 (12)
- Suture needle	16 (10)	21 (10)	21 (12)	32 (19)	17 (11)	107 (12)
- Scalpel	4 (3)	10 (5)	7 (4)	6 (4)	2 (1)	29 (3)
- Butterfly needle	5 (3)	6 (3)	7 (4)	7 (4)	15 (10)	40 (5)
- Other	27 (17)	10 (5)	20 (12)	16 (9)	18 (12)	91 (11)
- Missing	3 (2)	4 (2)	10 (6)	4 (2)	2 (1)	23 (3)
- Total	159	207	169	172	157	864

Table 1: Workplace-related variables of needlestick injuries by year

OCCASIONAL PIECES

PORCINE RESUSITATION AND ITS EFFECT ON THE NATURE OF TASTE (PRESENT) TRIAL

.....P1024

McGarry et al have prepared a Christmas ham in 3 fluids, water, 0.9% saline, and 5% dextrose. Sixty four staff members sampled the cooked ham. 51.6% favoured the ham in 0.9% saline, 32.8% favoured water, and 16.5% favoured 5% glucose.

[\[Read Article\]](#)

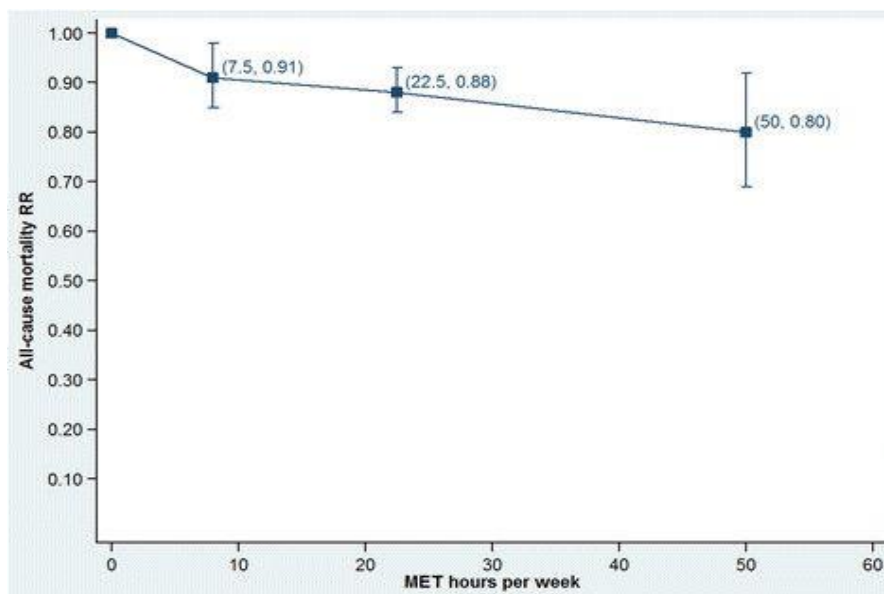
	Solution A (Water)	Solution B (5% Glucose)	Solution C (0.9% NaCl)
Pre-cooking solution volume	1500ml	1500ml	1500ml
Post-cooking solution volume	1500ml	1550ml	1600ml
Pre-cooking ham weight	1000g	1000g	1000g
Post-cooking ham weight	724g	740g	645g
Change in ham mass	-276g	-260g	-345g

Table 1: Measured effect of cooking on volume of remaining solution used and change in overall ham mass.

NEXT STOP A LONGER LIFEP1025

Conway and O'Farrell have explored a novel way of increasing one's physical activity. They suggest alighting from the bus one stop earlier. This would amount to 44.21 minutes additional walking per week. The benefit is a 50 day increase in life expectancy.

[\[Read Article\]](#)



Graph: Dose-response relationship for a range of walking exposures in MET.hours per week and the associated all-cause mortality RR³

CASE REPORTS

LEPTOMENINGEAL RELAPSE OF EMBRYONAL RHABDOMYOSARCOMA AFTER 15 YEARS

.....P1026

Chew et al describe a 20 year old male who presented with a late leptomeningeal rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) relapse. His initial presentation was at age 5 years with a RMS of his right ear. The authors point out that late recurrences greater than 10 years after the initial presentation are exceedingly rare. His relapse was treated with chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

[\[Read Article\]](#)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? FIVE-YEAR CAREER TRENDS IN A SINGLE GRADUATING MEDICAL CLASS

P1027

Murphy et al surveyed 108 doctors who qualified in 2008. A total of 35 (32.4%) of doctors had worked abroad during their first 5 postgraduate years. At the end of 5 years 20 of these doctors were still working abroad.

[\[Read Article\]](#)

DRIVING ADVICE WITH PRESCRIPTION OF BENZODIAZEPINES AND Z-DRUGS

P1028

[\[Read Article\]](#)

TARGETED IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT CLINICS IN RESOURCE-STRETCHED SERVICES

IMPROVES REFERRAL RATES.....P1029

[\[Read Article\]](#)

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY OF DENIS C. O'SULLIVANP1030

[\[Read Article\]](#)

CONTINUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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

CPD QUIZ