

been required for neonates receiving intensive care; however, 34 less transfusions would have been required in our stable, chronic cohort.

Conclusion: ELBW and VLBW babies are most likely to require repeated transfusions and benefit from a single-donor transfusion programme. Comparison between transfusion guidelines shows that it is safe to adopt more restrictive transfusion guidelines in our stable, chronic cohort.

P14.13

A review of a paediatric dermatology clinic in Malta

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Introduction: A review of the paediatric dermatology clinic set up in 2009 at the department of dermatology and venereology, Sir Paul Boffa Hospital, was carried out in 2011.

Aim: The aim of the exercise was to identify the main conditions being seen in this clinic and to analyse management and referral patterns.

Methods: The study was carried out from January to December 2011. For each patient attending the paediatric dermatology clinic the following information was collected: age, gender, source of referral, reason for referral, whether it was a new case or follow-up visit, diagnosis and disposal. For new cases, when a diagnosis was offered in the referral letter, this was compared to the diagnosis made by the dermatologist. After the consultation parents or carers were asked whether they were satisfied with the service provided in the clinic and whether they preferred a Saturday appointment to one on Monday to Friday. They were also asked for suggestions to improve the service. A simple proforma was used to document the required information and was filled in during the consultation.

Results: Of the patients attending, 86 (66%) were males and 44 (34%) were females. Overall, the commonest conditions seen were acne, eczema, naevi, fungal infections and psoriasis. General practitioners accounted for 69% of referrals whereas paediatricians and other specialists accounted for the other 31%. Of the 80 new patients seen, 55% were given a follow-up appointment in the Paediatric Dermatology clinic, 30% were discharged and 15% were given an appointment for further therapy e.g. skin surgery, laser treatment or cryotherapy. Parents or carers accompanying children to the clinic all stated that Saturday was the best day of the week for them to attend.

Conclusion: The importance of adequate dermatology services for the paediatric population is increasingly recognized. It is hoped that the results of this exercise will be found useful to improve the provision of dermatological care to the paediatric population in Malta.

P14.14

Evaluation of the first three years of a revised biomedical sciences curriculum

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In 2009, the University of Malta Medical School embarked on a process of curricular reform starting with Years 1 and 2 of the basic biomedical sciences curriculum. Each semester since then, we have collected anonymous feedback from each cohort of Year 1 and year 2 students regarding whether 1. The study unit materials matched the learning outcomes; 2. The amount of independent work was compatible with the credit value; 3. There was close agreement between the stated objectives and what was actually taught; 4. There was repetition of content across study units; 5. The clinical relevance of the subject matter was emphasized; and 6. The time devoted to each study unit was adequate to meet the learning outcomes. Apart

from that, data was collected to evaluate the effectiveness of the teaching methodology within the new curriculum - be it practical session, lecture or small group session. All Year 1 and 2 study units were evaluated for each academic year. Between 2009 and 2011, 1281 students completed the questionnaires (35% of the study body). Analysis of this data shows that in general the revised curriculum has been well received. Students have commented favourably on the new integration of academic disciplines of anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, pathology into system-based modules. Concerns have been raised about some of the learning outcomes and the time allocated to certain topics. These data have been utilised by curriculum planners to amend several of the study units, which changes will take effect in October 2012.

P14.15

The role of SCI-59 in career choice for Foundation Years (FY) doctors

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Introduction: The specialty choice inventory (SCI) covers 59 of the training options that are listed by the GMC (UK). The web based on-line programme is a psychometric instrument designed especially for the selection of medical careers. "It matches an individual's personal and professional characteristics and aspirations to appropriate specialty choices and provides the user with suggestions for further research and information gathering." It is meant to help individuals at any level of training to reflect on, or make, their own career choices. It does not make the choice.

Aim: To analyse if the FY doctors most preferred and least preferred career choices are matched by SCI-59.

Method: All doctors who requested a SCI-59 password to access the site were asked to list their top 3 choices and their 3 least preferred personal career choices prior to accessing the site. They were then asked to record the SCI-59 results in terms of top 3 and bottom 3 career choices. The data that they submitted to the FP was analysed.

Results: 26 FY doctors submitted their top 3 and SCI-59 top 3 career choices. In 57.7% of cases there was no match between their personal choice and their choice according to SCI-59. In 30.8% of cases there was 1 match between their choice and SCI-59 choice. In 11.5% of cases the top 2 choices of the FY doctors matched those of SCI-59. 23 FY doctors submitted their bottom 3 and SCI-59 bottom 3 career choices. In 17.4% there choices did not match. In 30.4% of cases there was one match between the doctors bottom 3 choices and SCI-59. In 52.2% of cases there were 2 matches between the doctors personal preference and the preference according to SCI-59. In the free text comments, most doctors said that you can manipulate the answers in the way you answer the questions. Most doctors commented that it gave them an insight into specialties that they never considered before and/or did not know about them.

Conclusion: SCI-59 seems to better in correlating the doctors least preferred choices than their preferred choices. Caution needs to be advocated to the Foundation trainees when using this site with regard to career selection.

P14.16

Are taster weeks within the Foundation Programme meeting the trainee's needs?

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Introduction: One of the aims of the Foundation Programme (FP) is to ensure that trainees have access to a wide range of specialties in a variety of care settings prior to selecting a career path. A taster week is spent by a trainee in a specialty in which the trainee has not previously worked