Finding Familial Hypercholesterolaemia After The Event

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Introduction

The risk of premature CHD in untreated familial hypercholesterolaemia (FH) is well documented. NICE recommends considering FH where the total cholesterol >7.5mmol/L, or a personal or family history of CHD <60y exists. We proposed to assess how frequently FH was being considered locally for individuals aged <60 with myocardial infarction (MI).

Methods

Retrospective audit of patients with MI recorded in the Grampian region from 2017 to 2020.

Results

2855 patients were diagnosed with MI (total 3044 events) in the period 2017-2020 in NHS Grampian (population 580,000). 757/2855 were aged <60 at the time of the event. 92/757 met lipid criteria for consideration of diagnosis of FH. 14/92 were already known to the Lipid Clinic. Of the remaining 78 Genetic testing had been performed in 14/92, with 1/14 being positive. In total, 21/92 unique patients who met criteria were considered for FH.

Conclusion

Locally, it is likely that FH is being underdiagnosed in those who have experienced premature MI due to the condition. Screening the individuals who meet criteria could help to bridge the gap between estimated prevalence and known individuals.