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An audit to assess whether patients undergoing emergency ureteric stent insertion for obstructing ureteric stones had a serum calcium measured in line with NICE guidelines

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Introduction: Roughly 1 in 11 people will suffer with urinary tract stone-related symptoms during their lifetime,[1] with the annual incidence in the UK being 1-2 cases per 1000 people.[2] NICE recommend measuring serum calcium levels in all patients presenting with urinary tract calculi.[3]

This audit aims to identify whether patients, presenting to our local urology unit with obstructing ureteric stones and undergoing emergency ureteric stenting, had a serum calcium measured in line with NICE guidance.

Method: Utilising the trust theatre software, Ormis, patients who underwent ureteric stenting on the emergency theatre list due to obstructing ureteric stones were identified in the months January to March inclusive. Corresponding records, on Nervecentre and ICE, were subsequently checked to assess whether a patient had a serum calcium measured during the same admission. A serum parathyroid hormone was checked in hypercalcaemic patients.

Results : 54 patients meeting the above criteria were identified. 48 (88.89%) of these patients had serum calcium measured during the same admission as undergoing emergency ureteric stenting. Of these, 4 were found to be hypercalcaemic, 3 of whom also had a serum parathyroid hormone level checked.

Conclusion: Our unit seemed to have good compliance with NICE guidelines in regard to measuring serum calcium. In order to assess a wider cohort, all patients diagnosed with ureteric or renal stones can be audited. Similarly, the time period can be increased.

In order to improve compliance, departmental teaching can be delivered at induction of new resident doctors and nursing staff. Posters can also be placed in clinical areas.

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