

A one year audit of achieving patient driven performance targets in a locally provided memory clinic

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Introduction

- Over 40,000 people with dementia in Ireland
- Evidence supports early diagnosis to promote access to treatment and supports ¹
- Current estimates indicate only 1/3rd of people with dementia ever receive a diagnosis²
- Memory clinics provide a mechanism for interested and experienced specialists to collaborate in the diagnosis and management of dementia³

Background

- New memory clinic established in Cashel in cooperation with the 2 consultant geriatricians in South Tipperary & the Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist
- St Patrick's Hospital was in the process of seeking site accreditation for the development of an Advanced Nurse Practitioner Post in Dementia

Steering Group Established

- Consultant Geriatrician
- Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist
- Director of Nursing
- Director of Public Health Nursing
- Hospital Manager
- Medical Officer
- Clinical Nurse Manager
- Alzheimer's Society Regional Manager
- Patient Representative
- Allied Health Service Representative
- Regional Practice Development Coordinator for Older People(NCNM)
- Project Officer/ANP Candidate

Pilot Scheme

- Six month pilot scheme for May 2009 to October 2009
- Results of pilot study were positive and it was decided to formalise establishment of clinic
- One year audit conducted for May 2009- end of April 2010

Purpose of Audit

- To audit outcomes of newly established memory clinic with reference to:
 - Diagnostic yield
 - Treatment recommendations
 - Performance targets

Multidisciplinary Team

- Two Consultant Geriatricians
- Consultant Old Age Psychiatry
- Advanced Nurse Practitioner Candidate
- Staff Nurse
- Occupational Therapist
- Public Liaison Nurse
- Verbal consultation with Consultant Neuropsychologist

Process

- Referrals forwarded to clinic
- ANP (candidate) sees all new patients for blood screen, history taking, physical examination and cognitive assessment
- A percentage of cases discussed with Consultant Neuropsychologist
- Patients return to see consultant geriatrician /consultant psychiatrist (monthly clinic) once all test results are available including CT Scan Brain
- Patients return for review if indicated and discharged to GP
- Phone follow up or return to ANP candidate for further advice/information where appropriate

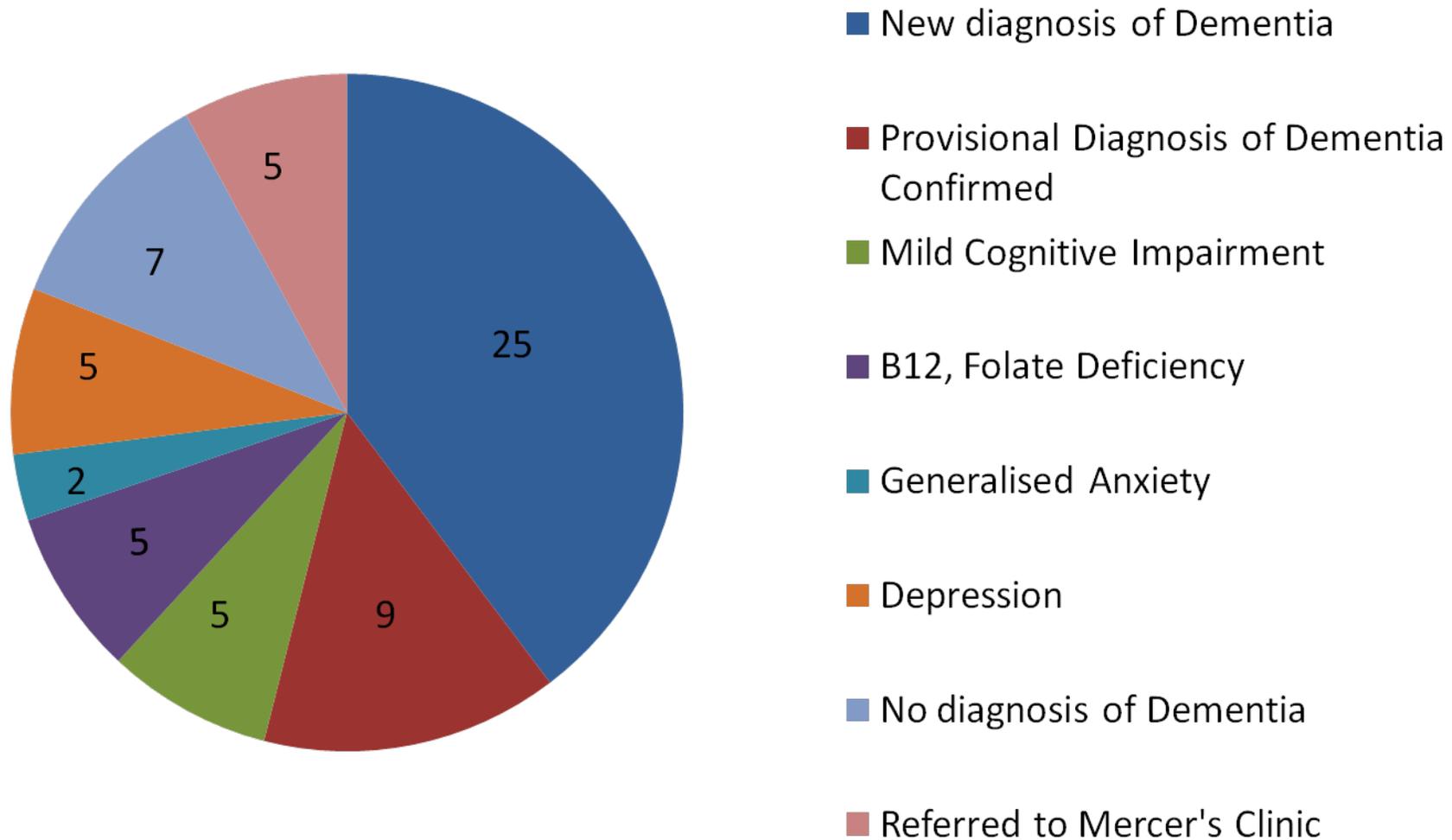
Method

- A database which was maintained by the ANP Candidate was audited

Results

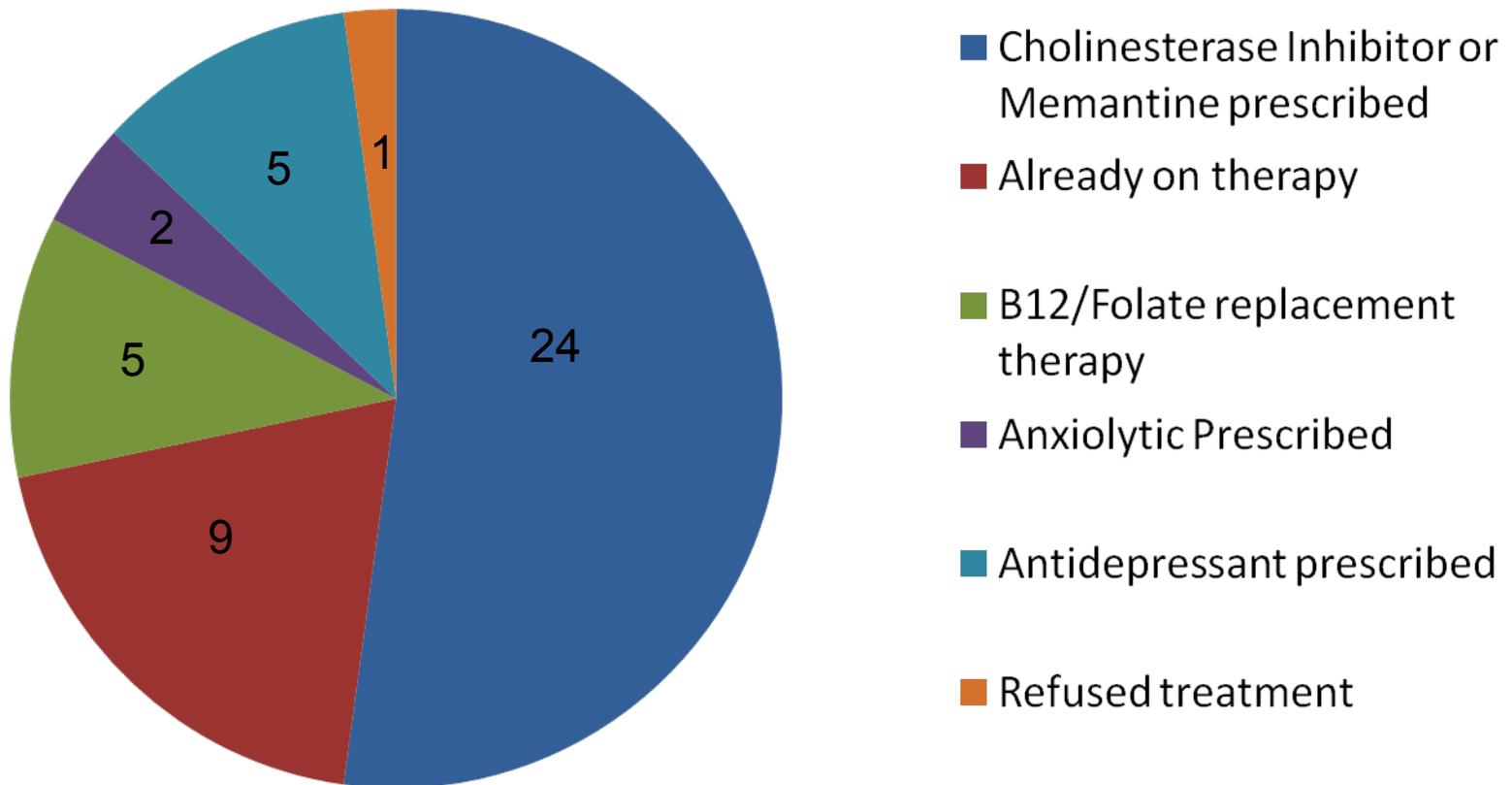
- 101 referrals: 57 female, 44 male
- 20 cancelled or did not attend
- 81 attended the ANP Candidate for pre assessment including blood screen, physical exam, cognitive assessment
- 67/81 attendances at consultants clinic : (58 new & 9 review)
- 40 cases discussed with Consultant Neuropsychologist
- Waiting time for Brain Ct Scans was between 6-16 weeks
- 20 received further follow-up with ANP Candidate
- 5 patients referred to Mercers Memory Clinic, Dublin

Diagnostic Categories

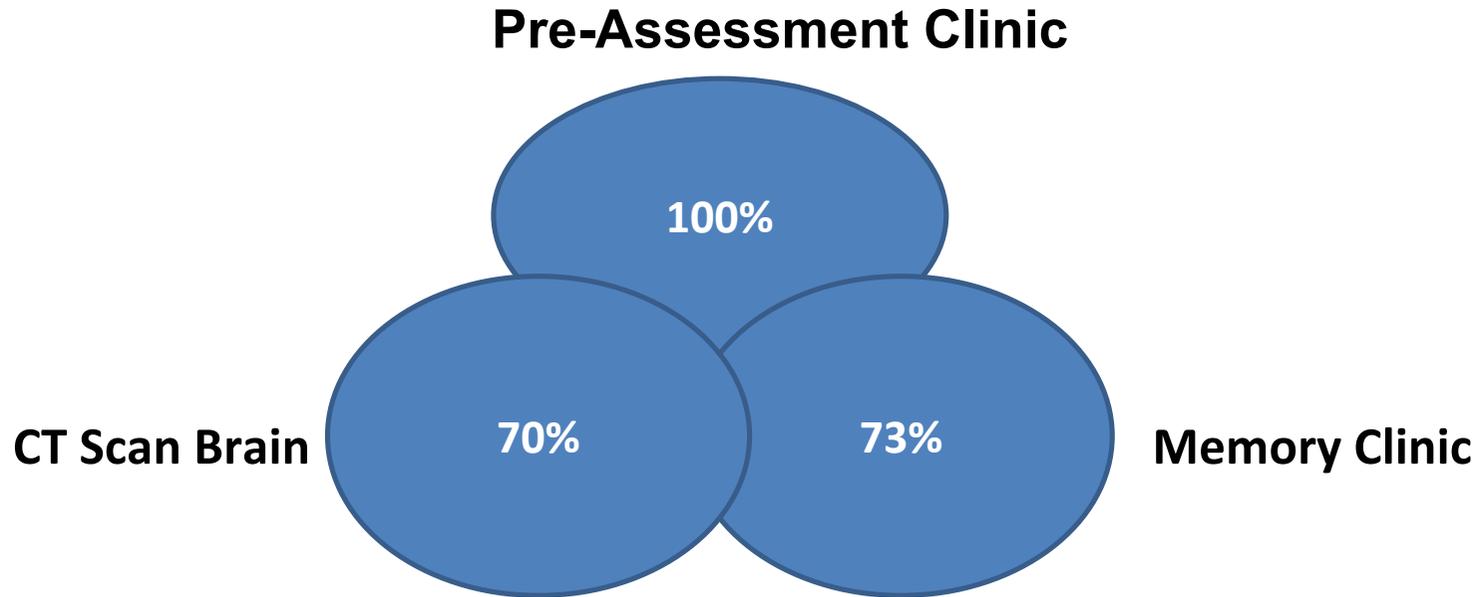


Interventions

Table 2



Performance Targets Met



Performance Targets

1. Time from referral to first visit with ANP Candidate for pre assessment: PT=6 weeks: PT Achieved = 100%
2. Waiting time for Ct Scan Brain: PT=8 weeks: Pt Achieved = 70%
3. Time from first visit to Memory Clinic: PT = 8 weeks: PT Achieved = 73%
(14 weeks in total from time of referral to Memory Clinic)

Conclusions

- The barrier to achieving performance targets in terms of time to diagnosis, is availability of Ct Scanning. Once this is tackled, a local memory clinic can provide the necessary focus required for the majority of patients who present with memory problems

References

1. O'Shea, E (2006) The time for action is Now: Implementing Policy for Dementia Care in Ireland: Alzheimer Society Ireland
2. DOH 2009 Living well with Dementia: A National Dementia Strategy
3. Wilcock, G.K. (1999) Diagnosis and management of dementia: A manual for memory disorders teams. Oxford University Press. Oxford.