

Nurse Led DVT service over the last 17 years: IVDU (intravenous drug users) comparison to general population

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INTRODUCTION

The nurse led DVT clinic based in University Hospitals Plymouth (UHP) was started in 2002 with the support of a medical and haematological consultant. Its aim was to improve the journey of patients presenting to UHP with signs and symptoms of DVT. This service required modernisation from referral to assessment, investigation, diagnosis and treatment. The use of Patient Group Directives allowed nurse led treatments to be offered.

This has changed over the years with treatment now primarily being direct acting oral anticoagulants (DOAC) from previously warfarin being the drug of choice

AIM

Intravenous drug users are a population that are known to have a risk of DVT but there is little evidence published looking at how they are treated and the prevalence of thrombosis in this patient group

This study looked at the number of patients presenting with suspected DVT who had IVDU as a risk factor as well as collecting some demographic data on these patients

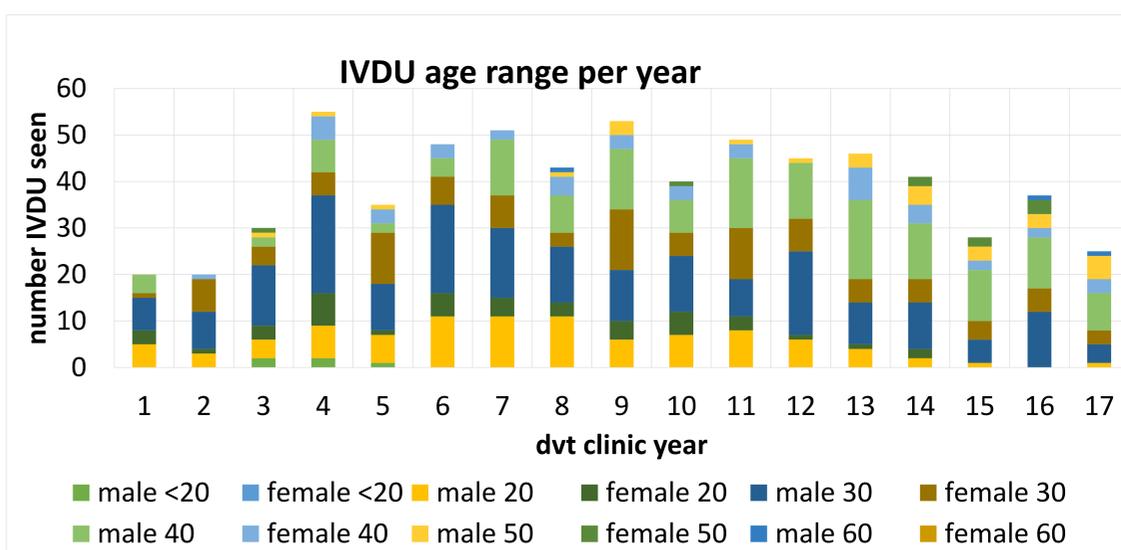
METHOD

- This was a retrospective cohort study looking at all patients referred to the DVT clinic over 17 years
- Data was collected on gender, age, outcome, wells score and whether a d dimer test was taken

RESULTS

- The total number of patients referred from 2002 to 2019 was 18384 with 7840 Male (43%) and female 10543 (57%) and 1 transgender. DVT was confirmed in 3943 (21.4%) with males comprising 2214 (56%) and female 1726 (44%).
- Over the same period 678 IVDU patients were referred of whom 474 were male (70%) 204 female (30%). Of this group 368 had DVT confirmed (54%) with males 261 (71%) and female 107 (29%).
- Wells scoring in this group ranged from 1 to 5 mean of 2.78 shown in table below
- D Dimer was positive in 221 IVDU patients 19 had a negative result and test not carried out in 128 patients
- The graph below shows the ages of IVDU patients referred highlighting the population has been getting older over the study period

Wells score	1	2	3	4	5
Number	40	99	146	69	14



CONCLUSIONS

- Over the study period the positive rate for IVDU patients was significantly higher than for the general population
- Overall women were more likely to present with suspected DVT but more positive events were seen in men
- For the IVDU group men were both more likely to present and have a thrombosis
- The IVDU group were also a younger group than the general population
- The majority of VTE events in this group were DVT rather than pulmonary embolism

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