functional aetiology. Functional stroke mimics accounted for 8% of admissions to an acute stroke service in London (Gargalas et al., 2015) and the prevalence and burden of functional stroke is well recognised by clinicians. We present a systematic review and meta-analysis aiming to: 1) estimate the prevalence of stroke mimics and functional stroke mimics across medical settings; and 2) describe the demographic and symptom profiles of functional stroke patients.

Methods Three literature searches took place between 2015–2018 utilising OvidSP, PubMed, CINAHL and Google Scholar. A total of 13,974 abstracts were reviewed and 114 papers met inclusion criteria. Age and sex proportions were compared between stroke, stroke mimic and functional mimic groups. Prevalence rates across settings and moderators of functional mimic rates were calculated using random-effects models.

Results Stroke, stroke mimic and functional mimic definitions varied between studies. Across settings, 25% of suspected stroke patients were stroke mimics and 15% of stroke mimics had a functional aetiology. Stroke mimics were younger than stroke patients and more likely to be female. Similarly, functional patients were younger and more often female than medical mimics. 10 papers gave symptom information for functional patients; compared to medical mimics, functional patients were more likely to display weakness/numbness and less likely to present with reduced consciousness, visual symptoms or speech/language symptoms. Meta-analyses show a higher rate of stroke mimics in primary care (38%) vs more acute settings (12%) but the inverse for functional mimics (24%) in stroke units vs only 12% in primary care). Functional rates were highest in studies that were descriptive, retrospective, from high income countries and in studies where all patients received thrombolysis.

Conclusions Functional diagnoses are an important differential of suspected stroke. Definitions of functional stroke mimics vary widely in stroke literature. Our findings suggest functional stroke patients are most commonly seen in tertiary settings. There are no guidelines on the management of these patients within acute stroke settings. In the context of these findings, a feasibility study is underway investigating the presentation of functional stroke patients and their views on possible interventions and this research may help improve current care pathways.

MEDICATION PRESCRIPTIONS IN 322 FUNCTIONAL MOTOR DISORDER PATIENTS IN A LARGE UK MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE: A CASE CONTROL STUDY

Nicola O’Connell*, Timothy Nicholson, Graham Blackman, Jennifer Tavener, Anthony, S David. Department of Public Health and Primary Care, School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin

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Objectives This study aims i) to describe the patterns of prescription medication in functional motor disorder (mFND) treated in a Mental Health Trust, using a control group comprised of a random sample of contemporaneous patients treated in the same trust; and ii) explore the sociodemographic variables and symptoms linked to higher medication usage.

Methods This is a retrospective case-control study using an electronic psychiatric case register in South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM). SLaM provides psychiatric inpatient and community services and receives national referrals for functional neurological disorder (FND) patients. Data were obtained from 322 mFND patients and 644 controls between 1st January 2006 and 31st December 2016 using the ‘Clinical Records Interactive Search’ (CRIS) database.

Results 247 (76.7%) mFND patients were prescribed medication, lower than 83.4% in the control group (OR: 0.59, 95% CI: 0.39–0.89, p<0.02). The mean number of prescribed medications in the mFND group was 4.77 (SD: 2.4), higher than 2.98 (SD: 2.7) in the psychiatric control group (t = 7.92, p<0.001). Amongst mFND patients receiving medication, the most common prescriptions were antidepressants (68% received one or more), anti-epileptics (33.5% on one or more), non-opioid painkillers (32.4%), and opioid analgesics (31.2%). Compared to psychiatric controls, mFND patients had a higher likelihood of receiving anti-depressants, medications for cardiovascular disease, statins, antihistamines, anti-arthmetics, corticosteroids, anti-epileptics, hormone replacement therapy, proton pump inhibitors, bowel and urinary dysfunction medication, NSAIDs, and muscle relaxants. mFND patients were significantly more likely to receive antipsychotic medication or treatments for substance misuse. An adjusted analysis of mFND patients found co-morbid physical conditions and previous psychiatric admissions were associated with higher numbers of medication prescriptions.

Conclusions mFND patients are prescribed an extensive range of medications for psychiatric and somatic symptoms, most commonly anti-depressants, anti-epileptics and analgesics. The diversity in medications may be partially explained by higher rates of physical co-morbidities but may also reflect ‘somatization’ or excessive symptom reporting combined with a lack of therapeutic options for clinicians managing patients with complex functional and ‘organic’ conditions and chronic pain. Non-essential medication prescribing may reinforce somatic illness beliefs and cause iatrogenic harm, particularly high rates of opioid pain medication, with important implications for clinical management in primary and secondary care.

OUTPATIENT COGNITIVE BEHAVIOURAL THERAPY FOR ‘FUNCTIONAL’ AND ‘ORGANIC’ NEUROPSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS: A RETROSPECTIVE CASE CONTROL COMPARISON

Nicola O’Connell*, Gillian Watton, Clare Grey, Rosa Pastena, Kenneth McIntosh, Anthony S David. Department of Public Health and Primary Care, School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin

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Objectives There is no gold standard treatment for functional neurological disorder, motor type (mFND). Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) is effective in the treatment of certain somatoform disorders. This study aims to evaluate the characteristics and outcomes of mFND patients receiving CBT in a neuropsychiatry outpatient clinic.

Method We utilise a large psychiatric register to assess all mFND patients receiving outpatient CBT in a neuropsychiatric clinic between 2006 and 2011. We assess socio-demographic characteristics, changes in physical and psychological outcomes using standardised rating scales, and rates of CBT uptake and dropout. We compare mFND patients to patients with psychiatric and behavioural manifestations of organic neuropsychiatric diseases treated in the same clinic (ONP patients).