was migraine (72%), followed by tension-type headache (56%). Dizziness and/or vertigo was a commonly reported co-existing symptom, with 24% reporting this. For 13% (n=29) of cases, it was documented that time was taken out of work or studies due to headache symptoms. In 205 patients it was reported whether sleep was affected, with 70% (n=144) of cases indicating it was. For 195 cases, 80% (n=153) reported a normal appetite, 16% (n=32) a decrease, and 4% (n=8) an increase in appetite. In 195 patients, 65% (n=126) reported reduced energy levels. For 21% (n=46) there was documentation of anxiety. Regarding mood, in 176 cases where this was recorded, 33% gave a negative mood description.

Conclusion To the authors’ knowledge, this study is the first to report on headache characteristics in patients presenting to a UK general neurology clinic. The diagnostic frequency of different headaches presented in this study are comparable to those described in specialist headache clinics. Our population demonstrate significant psychiatric morbidity associated with headaches, with 33% reporting negative mood value and in addition higher proportions reporting energy and sleep disturbance. To conclude, this study has shown the common headache diagnoses encountered in a general neurology clinic, and indeed is comparable to headaches managed in primary care. Improved integration between these services is key to ensuring effective care for such patients.

19 'NOBODY PREPARED ME FOR THIS! PARENTS’ EXPERIENCES OF SEEKING HELP AND SUPPORT WITH POST-BRAIN INJURY SYMPTOMS AND CHANGES IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY

Robyn McCarron*

10.1136/jnnp-2019-BNPA.19

Objectives/aims This research aims to:

- Understand the journeys and processes that parents follow in seeking help and support for post-brain injury symptoms and changes in their children.
- Identify the barriers and challenges that parents face in obtaining help and support for their children and family following paediatric Acquired Brain Injury (ABI).
- Propose ways in which services can be more responsive to the evolving needs of children and adolescents with ABI and their families.

Method Five mothers were interviewed using semi-structured interviews about their experiences of seeking help and support for post-brain injury symptoms and changes in their children. The participants’ children were 60% male, 10–16 years old and were 2–6 years post injury. Four had suffered strokes and one had a Traumatic Brain Injury. The age at injury was 4–14 years old. The interviews were audio-recorded and transcribed into 2698 units of data. The data was analysed using a Glaserian grounded theory constant comparative approach.

Results After a child suffers an ABI parents feel that it is down to them to ensure that their child gets the help and support that they need. Identifying and accessing support requires a high level of research and persistence that parents experience as a ‘battle’. Obtaining support for mental-health problems is especially challenging. Common barriers include communication issues, time and funding delays, a lack of consistent professionals, not meeting the criteria for services, and a lack of local or age-appropriate services. The challenges of trying to seek help and support impact upon the whole family in terms of time, finances, socially and emotionally. However, through this process parents do become expert parents/carers. They gain new knowledge and language and they look to share this to support other parents going through similar experiences.

Conclusions Providing parents with accessible psychoeducation around post-brain injury symptoms and changes in the acute period following a paediatric ABI could be a helpful intervention to make parents feel more prepared and supported in the medium to long term. More specialist paediatric ABI services that can provide integrated, holistic and developmental care are needed. Current services may need a more flexible and longer-term approach to be responsive to the needs of young people with ABI.