
AMICU *Association of Merseyside Intensive Care Units*

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Minutes of 53rd Meeting of AMICU,
April 1st 2005 at the Quality Hotel, Little Sutton, Wirral
(Sponsored by an educational grant from Wyeth and Sanofi-Aventis Pharmaceuticals)

Apologies: Dr F Mostafa, Prof R Griffiths, Dr P Nee, Dr N Scawn, Dr A Axon, Dr A Breen, Dr L McCrossan, Dr C Whitehead, Dr J Chambers

Attendance: Dr R Wenstone, Dr G Masterson, Dr D Jayson, Dr P Mullen, Dr N Fergusson, Dr I Tweedie, Dr R Mehra, Dr J Walker, Dr Niven, Dr R MacMillan, Dr R Nelson, Dr C Cowan, Dr J Harper, Dr E Moore, Dr T Hankin, Dr S Kehinde, Dr T Gilbertson, Dr H Butterall, Dr Peyrasse, Mr M Lazenby, Mrs J Simpson

01/05 Introduction

Dr Ian Tweedie, the Chairman of AMICU, welcomed the audience, thanked the meeting's sponsors (Sanofi-Aventis & Wyeth pharmaceuticals), checked the minutes of the last meeting for errors and matters arising and introduced the day's speaker.

02/05 Dr Sacha Niven's presentation

Dr Sacha Niven, consultant in neuroradiology from Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery, gave a 40-minute talk entitled "the modern management of subarachnoid haemorrhage". His talk was extremely well received and attracted 25 minutes worth of questions.

03/05 Business Meeting

Following a short tea break Dr Tweedie introduced the business meeting.

03/05/01 Clinical subgroup report

North Cheshire critical care report is not going to be made public, but is unlikely to contain any surprises within its recommendations. No resulting discussion.

Commissioning: The network has put forward to the specialist commissioning group a plan to have a practice educator in every network critical care unit, at a cost of £700,000. This led to a discussion about the role of the educator in ensuring new staff, including medical are trained on the use of ICU equipment. General feeling that it is important but potentially very time consuming, and who takes responsibility for ensuring that the training is adequate for purposes of safety and future complaint and accreditation purposes?

Christina Jones gave a talk on physical restraint within ICU, and suggested that those patients who were restrained during their critical care stay were more likely to develop post-traumatic stress disorder.

Nutrition bundle is available for use, with the aim of each unit auditing how it complies at present, with a view to adopting all or part of it locally.

Information group reported that the DH has rejected the ICS recommended critical care minimum data set as being too big. Therefore for rethink, though ICS keen to continue to push for it as the data collection standard.

HDU (level 2). Everyone present agreed with the CSG recommendation that it is inappropriate to transfer level 2 patients out of your own hospital, and contingencies should be made to cope with these patients in house.

03/05/02 Training

No report as Dr Shearer not present

03/05/03 ICS

Jane Harper was unsuccessful in gaining a seat on the ICS council, by a very narrow margin. Those present felt she should be encouraged to stand again, but with much more active canvassing for support.

As Richard Griffiths was not present no further ICS issues were raised.

03/05/04 AOB

It was proposed to make Fred Mostafa a life member of AMICU on his retirement in recognition of his local and national contribution to critical care. This was agreed unanimously and will be ratified at the next AMICU meeting.

The possibility of our joint meeting with Manchester on September 9th be preceded in the morning by a 'Remifentanil in critical care' was discussed. There was some discussion about drug sponsored meetings being inappropriate, but in the end it was felt that it would work as long as a clear line was drawn between the Glaxo sponsored morning from our own afternoon meeting.

04/05 Date of next meeting

The 54th AMICU meeting will be the annual Spring meeting on 24th June 2005 at our usual venue, the Quality Hotel in Little Sutton. Dr Nick Beeching, a consultant in infectious diseases at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital, will give the society an update on the management of infectious diseases.

GRM April 2005