The impact of Intrathecal Baclofen in the management of Posture and Mobility

PMG National Training Event

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Content

- Ravages caused by uncontrolled tone
- When to consider ITB treatment
- Our referral pathways and integration
- Patient selection and goals
- Process and patient journey
- Results and outcomes
- Conclusion























ITB for posture management

- Severe regional spasticity, MD, Rigidity
- Conventional treatment ineffective
 - Undesirable stimuli eliminated
 - Oral drugs not sufficient or too troublesome
 - Focal therapy insufficient
- Goals can be met. Can improve QoL

Consider ITB early – not as palliative

ITB for posture management

- Consider
 - Bulbar and / or respiratory involvement
 - Unmasking of weakness
 - Joint fixity, HO
- Consider stage of disease and progression
- Consider-

Cost of ITB treatment
vs
Cost of interventions & complications
Vs
Improved QoL

When should we intervene?

Debated at the last National ITB forum last week

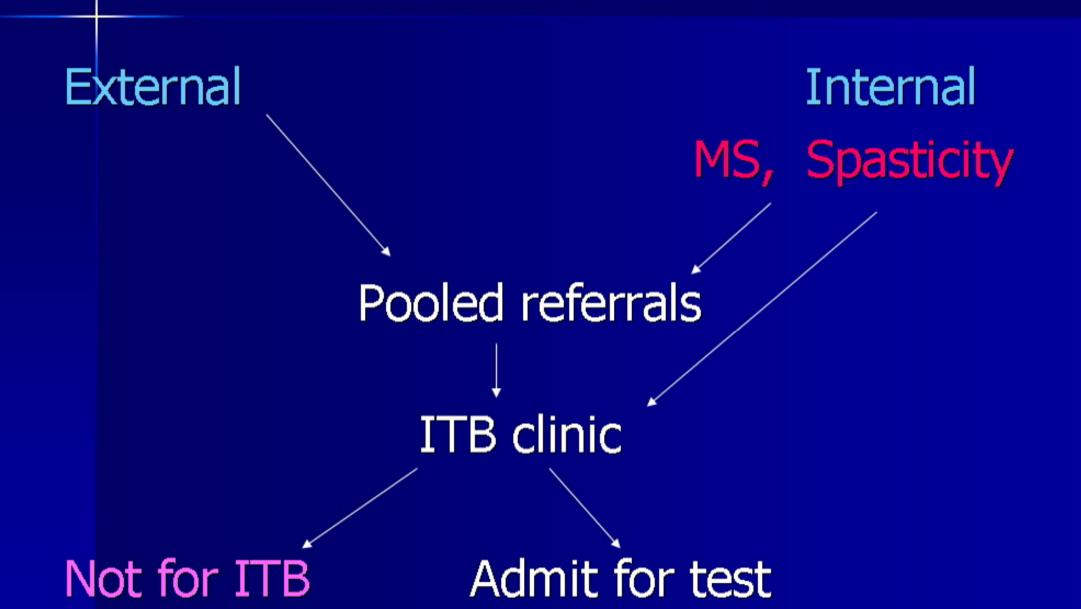
Early (what is early)

- Before irreversible changes set in
- Paediatric group
- Preventative
- Easy to provide therapy
- ? Aids recovery
- Patient specific

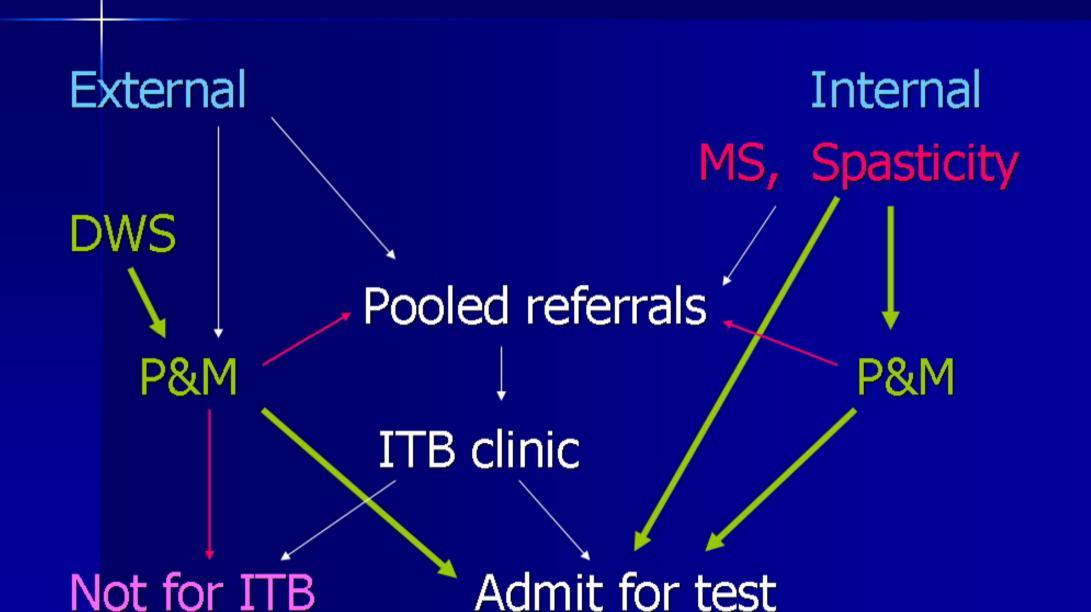
Delayed

- May prevent natural recovery
- Over treatment- too flaccid
- Acute stage is not the best time to decide on invasive treatment

Referral pathways



Referral pathways



Pathway influenced by;

- Hub and spoke collaboration
- Regional P&M Education and Training
 - District wheelchair services
 - Common group of Rehabilitation Engineers
- Identify patients requiring further specialist interventions

Patient selection and goals

- Indications
- Absolute and relative contraindications

- Clear realistic attainable goals
- Patient education
 - Possible undesirable outcomes
 - Few in the P&M setting

Process & patient journey

- Follow established protocol if ITB Test is positive
- Review clinic, carers, Consultant. & SpN
- Review goals, expectations, risks and benefits
- Patient and carer education
- Refer to dedicated neurosurgeon
- Funding agreed
- Implant
- Dose titration and lifelong follow up

ITB pump and programmer







Process & patient journey

Protocols constantly reviewed locally and regionally

- Parallel process for P&M services
- Timely interventions
- Some intermixing of expertise from;
 - ITB, spasticity and P&M services
- Aiming for more integration

Goals of ITB treatment

- Cease / control spasms
- Improve seating comfort
- Improve gait / aid mobility
- Improve ease of care including dressing
- Improve maintaining personal hygiene
- Reduce pain or stiffness
- Reduce risk of pressure sores
- Reduce risk of other complications
- Allow withdrawal of oral anti-spasticity drugs

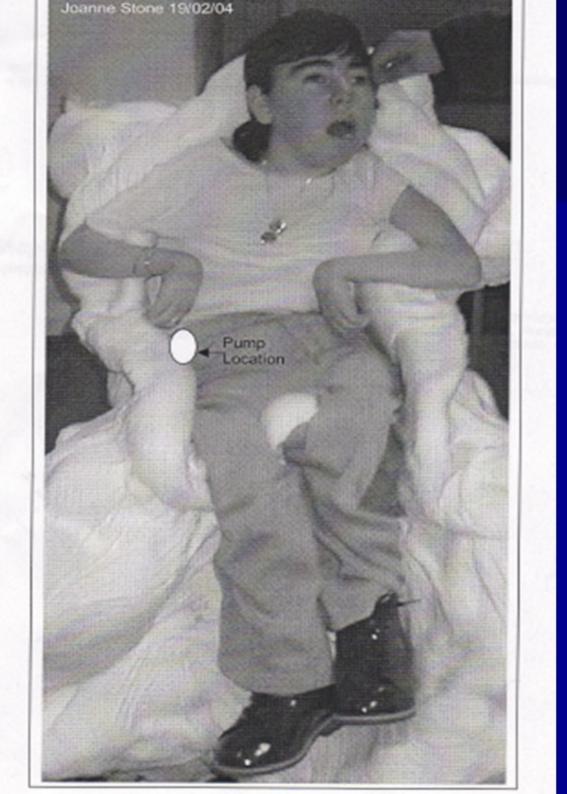




















Adverse events

- Surgical and anaesthetic complications
- Over dosage
 - Human error
 - No antidote (? Suxamethonium)
 - Spontaneous recovery with life support
- Under dosage
 - More serious, can be fatal
 - Delivery failure or dosing error
 - Emergency attention needed
- Chest infections and intra abdominal sepsis
- Pump extrusion



Responsibility of service

 A 24 hour emergency on call system in place to deal with any adverse event.

Unexpected symptoms thoroughly investigated immediately

 Oral drugs in high doses used as an emergency measure whilst being investigated if under dose is suspected

Summary of results

Referral patterns

Neuro rehabilitation 52%

Neuro / Orthopaedic 26%

GP referrals 8%

Others 14%

- 98% of referrals had P&M issues
- 45% were suitable for ITB treatment
- Almost all had satisfactory outcomes

Summary of results

- Easier to manage care
- Easier to manage posture
 - Definitive treatment possible and sustainable
 - Not hitting a brick wall all the time
 - Can downgrade seating system
- Improved comfort
- Improved alertness and well being
- Less pressure sores
- ? Less interventions (being investigated)
- Improved QoL (being investigated)



Conclusion

- The impact of intrathecal Baclofen and Phenol on P&M management has been very strikingly positive
- P&M, Spasticity and ITB services can be integrated well
- Use these modes of treatment early for maximum benefit
- They are very likely to improve QoL and be cost effective

Thank you very much