

4.13 Long Term Oxygen Therapy prescribing practice and adherence

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Long term oxygen therapy (LTOT) has been shown to improve survival in patients with chronic hypoxaemia who use it for >15 hours a day. We report an audit carried out to assess the Long Term Oxygen Therapy (LTOT) prescribing practice and adherence in our department. All 48 patients recruited attended the Oxygen Clinic in Tallaght University Hospital. Data including demographics, diagnosis, oxygen prescription and compliance were collected. LTOT was prescribed as per Irish Thoracic Society guidelines. 54% of patients were male. 58% had an underlying diagnosis of COPD while the other 42% had Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD). All patients had Ambulatory oxygen therapy (AOT) prescribed with 52% on LTOT additionally. Of the LTOT group only 56% were compliant with treatment, however this is in keeping with other similar studies. Despite advances in oxygen delivery devices making both domiciliary and ambulatory LTOT more practical and more convenient for patients adherence remains suboptimal. Dedicated pre-assessment, training and continued follow up may help improve compliance.

Conflict of Interest: None to declare