

1.10 Severe Asthma Service Naas General Hospital.

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Background: Severe Asthma can be defined as asthma that remains uncontrolled despite maximal therapy and treatment of contributory factors or that deteriorates once high dose treatment is decreased (1). According to GINA (2022) patients with severe asthma should have their phenotype assessed and be considered for biologic therapy. Biologic therapy targets specific inflammatory pathways to reduce asthma exacerbations, improves lung function, reduces use of oral corticosteroid and therefore improves quality of life.

Methods: A severe asthma clinic was set up in Naas Hospital in 2018 to facilitate the assessment and administration of biologic therapy. The aim of this clinic was to ensure severe asthma patients had timely, convenient access to this service. A retrospective review was carried to measure the effectiveness of biologic therapy on severe asthma patients, n= 10. This was done by auditing Asthma Control tests (ACT's), number of exacerbations and use of oral corticosteroids pre and post therapy.

Results: The results showed significant improvements in ACT's, admission rates decreased by 75%, ED presentations decreased by 100%, GP presentations decreased by 45% and use of oral corticosteroids decreased by 86% after patients commenced biologic therapy.

Conclusion: The severe asthma clinic has proved itself to be an effective and quality assured service. The service has ensured patients receive prompt assessment and subsequent access to biologic therapy when required. Although there was a small cohort of patients in this audit the results are impressive and significant.

References: 1. Global Initiative for Asthma (2022) Gina Global Strategy for Asthma Management and Prevention 2022 Report.