

10.16 Audit of adherence to bronchiectasis guidelines at Galway University Hospitals

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Background: European Respiratory Society (ERS) guidelines for the management of adult bronchiectasis recommend specific diagnostic investigations to tailor treatments to an identified aetiology. This audit examines current local practice against the 2017 ERS guidelines.

Methods: A retrospective review of patient files was undertaken, using the search term "bronchiectasis" in clinic letters between January and July 2023. All patients with a confirmed diagnosis of bronchiectasis were included. We reviewed investigations requested including FBC, quantitative immunoglobulins, Aspergillus serology and sputum culture, alongside the prevalence of patients on antimicrobial prophylaxis.

Results: 80 patients, (35 male), were included in the analysis. 87.5% of patients had immunoglobulins, 85% total serum IgE and 65% IgE specific to Aspergillus. Of those tested, abnormal results were recorded in 8.5%, 30.8% and 17.3% respectively. 29 (36%) patients were prescribed antimicrobial prophylaxis of which 70% had sputum sent for NTM culture previously.

Conclusion: Adherence to guidelines for diagnostic testing in patients with bronchiectasis can be improved to meet the ERS standard. We propose that improvements can be achieved by implementing a standardised diagnostic panel, alongside targeted teaching sessions. We aim to introduce a standard laboratory panel and re-audit after 6 months to assess improvements.

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

References: Polverino E, Goeminne PC, McDonnell MJ, *et al.* European Respiratory Society guidelines for the management of adult bronchiectasis. *Eur Respir J* 2017; 50: 1700629 [<https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.00629-2017>]