

# Auditing the prescribing of oral tetracyclines for the management of acne in patients >12 years old in a GP surgery

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## Introduction

- Skin conditions account for 8% of antibiotic prescribing <sup>(1)</sup>.
- The GP practice is assessed by the CCG on the appropriate prescribing of antibiotics <sup>(2)</sup>.
- Acne management involves a stepwise approach shown in figure 1 <sup>(3)</sup>.
- **Topical treatment should always be co-prescribed with oral antibiotics to reduce the risk of antibiotic resistance<sup>(4)</sup>.**

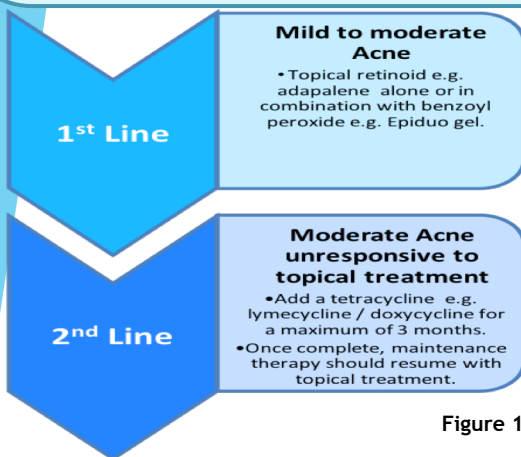
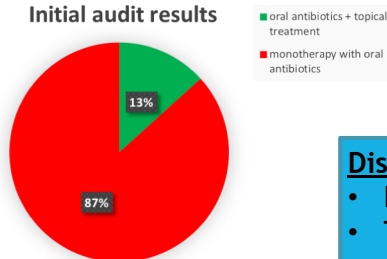


Figure 1

## Method

- The EMIS patient database was used to identify patients prescribed oral tetracycline for acne within 6 months from the search date (28/01/21).
- It was identified whether a topical treatment was co-prescribed.
- The audit was part of the medicines review process therefore, no ethical approval was required.
- Patient information was partially anonymised and data collection forms were stored on a password protected device.

Initial audit results



Post intervention

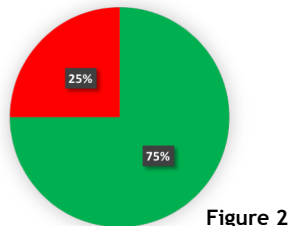


Figure 2

## Results

Of the 15 patients that were identified in the initial search, two were co-prescribed topical treatment (13%). Therefore **87% were not prescribed acne treatment according to NICE guidance.**

## Prescribing of Acne Treatment

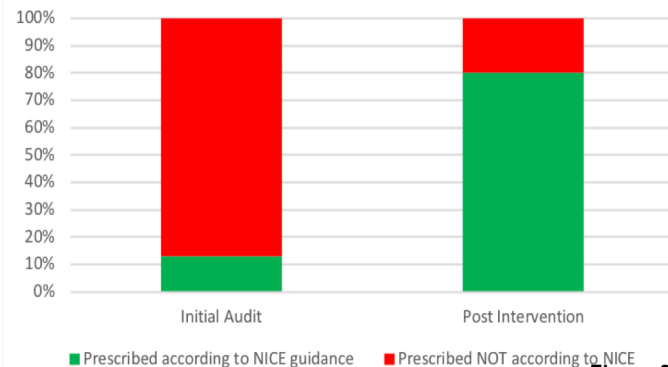


Figure 3

## Discussion

- **Intervention:**
- Telephone consultations to inform patients of the NICE guidance, assess whether oral antibiotics were still indicated and offer topical treatment.
- There was a **62% improvement** from the initial audit value post intervention (Figure 2)
- 33% of patients agreed to step down to maintenance topical therapy.
- As a result of the consultations, **80% of patients were prescribed treatment according to NICE guidance** (Figure 3).
- A Teaching session was provided to inform prescribers of the guidance.
- **Limiting Factors:** Unable to contact 1 patient, Previous intolerance to similar topical preparations.
- **Continued development:** implement system alerts to prescribe topical treatment with oral antibiotics and re-audit in 12 months.

## Audit standard

100% of patients receiving oral antibiotics to treat acne are co prescribed a topical agent by 8/3/21

## References

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