TITLE: Optimal Timing and Frequency of Follow-up Care for Patients Receiving At-Home Supplemental Oxygen: Clinical Evidence and Guidelines

DATE: 06 February 2013

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the clinical evidence regarding the optimal timing and frequency of follow-up care for patients receiving at-home supplemental oxygen?

2. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding the optimal timing and frequency of follow-up care for patients receiving at-home supplemental oxygen?

KEY MESSAGE

One health technology assessment, two non-randomized studies, and one evidence-based guideline were identified regarding the optimal timing and frequency of follow-up care for patients receiving at-home supplemental oxygen.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2012, Issue 12), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2003 and January 23, 2013. Internet links were provided, where available.

The summary of findings was prepared from the abstracts of the relevant information. Please note that data contained in abstracts may not always be an accurate reflection of the data contained within the full article.
RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

One health technology assessment, two non-randomized studies, and one evidence-based guideline were identified regarding the optimal timing and frequency of follow-up care for patients receiving at-home supplemental oxygen. All of the included studies focused on patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); no information regarding supplemental oxygen for other indications was identified. No systematic reviews, meta-analyses, or randomized controlled trials were identified. Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

OVERALL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

One health technology assessment, published in Quebec, reviewed portable oxygen therapy for patients with COPD. Little detail was provided regarding follow-up care, however it was stated that patient compliance and use of equipment should be reviewed with routine follow-up, but no time frame was provided. The report also mentioned that some contracts between patients and private oxygen suppliers include two home visits per year.

Two non-randomized studies monitored patients with COPD, who were receiving at-home supplemental oxygen. One study required a provider to make at least three home visits; one within three days of enrollment, then at one month and 10 months. The study authors found that patients’ self-management of COPD was improved and hospitalizations were reduced. A second study provided outpatient assessments every six months and home visits, by a respiratory team, every two to three months, or more often, as required. The intervention resulted in reduced mortality and hospitalizations.

An evidence-based guideline recommended that patients with COPD, receiving at-home supplemental oxygen, should be evaluated at least once a year, and the evaluation should include pulse oximetry.
REFERENCES SUMMARIZED

Health Technology Assessments

See: Sections 5.7.4 and 6.1.4

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses
No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials
No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies

PubMed: PM21197932

PubMed: PM19254602

Guidelines and Recommendations

See: Section 1.2.5.7

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Guidelines and Recommendations – methodology not stated

See: Section 10.0 Monitoring and review of patients on home oxygen

See: p. 1 Recommended review timeline

See: p. 18 Follow up and review

See: p. 6 Home follow-up

See: p. 11 Home follow-up

PubMed: PM15963018
Additional References
