

Developing standardised clinical pathways for the management of Gynaecological and Prostate Brachytherapy

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Introduction

Brachytherapy is a targeted form of radiation treatment that requires specialist, multidisciplinary management. Despite this, there is currently no standardised clinical pathway for the management of gynaecological and prostate brachytherapy.

Aims / Objectives

The aim of this study was to develop a comprehensive, standardised clinical pathway for the management of brachytherapy patients that can be utilised by multidisciplinary staff to improve patient safety.

Methodology

A multi-phase, iterative process was undertaken.

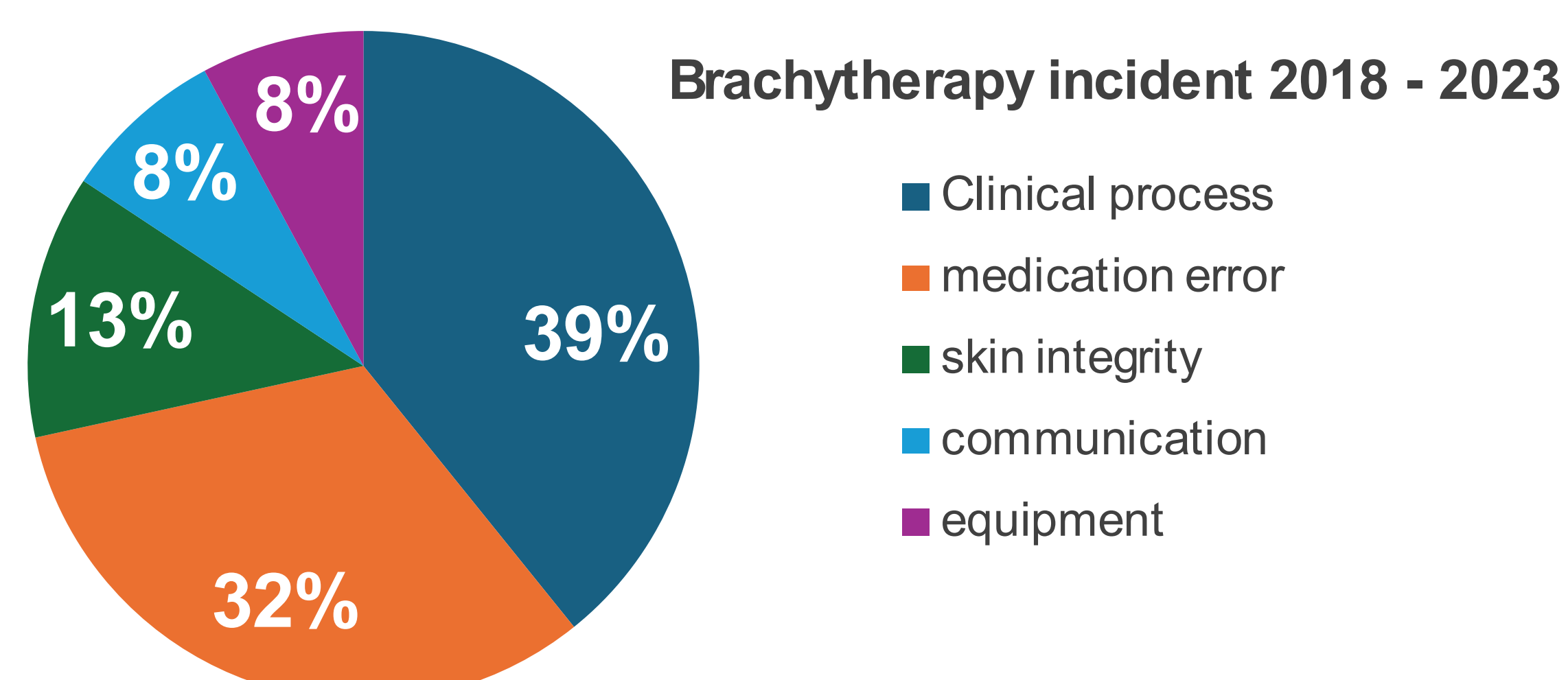
- ✍ **Phase 1:** 5 years clinical review of incidents and adverse events.
- ✍ **Phase 2:** Nursing Staff Survey from radiation oncology, medical oncology, and haematology units where brachytherapy beds located. The survey assessed staffs' current level of knowledge and confidence in the management of brachytherapy.
- ✍ **Phase 3:** utilised the findings to develop a clinical pathway.



Results

Phase 1: Incident Review

- ✍ 5 years review (2018-2023)
- ✍ 40 (n=40) brachytherapy incidents reported



Phase 2: Survey Data Collection

- ✍ 35 (n=35/114) nurses completed survey
- ✍ 57% of participants lacked confidence in managing patient-controlled analgesia
- ✍ 54% lacked confidence in epidural removal.
- ✍ Less than 50% were aware of the brachytherapy repositioning time frames
- ✍ over 50% identified the incorrect escalation pathway for non-urgent care
- ✍ 100% of participants agreed that a clinical pathway be beneficial

Conclusion

Results display that there is a critical need for a standardised clinical pathway for the management of brachytherapy. The next steps will be to implement and evaluate this pathway.