

within 7 days of release of the interim position statements with effective transition into standard care within this time period.^{2–4}

In order to evaluate the impact of the COG guidelines, we undertook a trust-wide audit of randomly selected COVID-19 patients admitted between 01 May 2020 and 30 Nov 2020. The majority of patients received appropriate therapeutic interventions during the audit time periods: dexamethasone (93%) and remdesivir (84%). Tocilizumab guidance was received in January 2021 and a further audit suggested that 86% of our patients received this treatment appropriately.

We agree with the authors and feel confident that the establishment of a local MDT has enabled our organisation to provide rapid access to therapeutic interventions in COVID-19 with high levels of concordance with local guidelines. Although NHS organisations have a wide degree of heterogeneity, we believe that the effective implementation of a local COVID-19 MDT group could have beneficial impact across the wider healthcare system. ■

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Probiotics for atopic dermatitis

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Editor – We read with great attention the holistic and exhaustive review by Plant and Arden-Jones about atopic dermatitis.¹

However, we think that the increasing use of probiotics in the prophylactic and curative management of this condition deserves more attention.

In fact, probiotics were increasingly used during the last 2 decades, notably in infants and children; and the cumulated evidence is now conclusive through several systematic reviews and meta-analyses.

Particularly, treatments with mixed-strain probiotics have greater prophylactic and curative effects to both lower the risk of atopic dermatitis and reduce symptoms in children.²

Interestingly, regarding the preventive effect of such probiotics, strong evidence-based proofs recently demonstrated that supplementation with probiotics in both the antenatal period (in pregnant mothers) and postnatal period (in breastfeeding mothers then in infants) was efficient to reduce the incidence of atopic dermatitis in infancy and childhood.^{3,4}

The era of microbiome-targeting drugs is here, and probiotics ought to be considered as a powerful, adjunct, preventive and curative therapy; especially in the paediatric population. ■

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Novel psychoactive substance

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Editor – We read with interest the article entitled 'Acute neurological consequences of novel psychoactive substance use: a retrospective review in a large UK hospital' by Tanti *et al*.¹ The team have effectively highlighted the high rates of psychiatric comorbidity, unemployment, homelessness and incarceration in this vulnerable group in society. However, the paper may have benefitted from involvement of a clinical or analytical toxicologist to prevent several inaccuracies. Lack of analytical confirmation in any patient is a major limitation; self-reporting of substances of abuse (especially novel psychoactive substances (NPS)) is known to be unreliable. It is misleading to state 'unfortunately, drug screens do not detect novel psychoactive substances' since, while basic point-of-care immunoassay-based tests will not detect