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| Report of a case in which information provision has influenced patient care, either individually or through the development of a care pathway.  Library concerned: Hirson library, St Helier Hospital, Carshalton, Surrey  Name of case study: Chylous effusion of 6 months duration  Date of interview: | |
| **Interviewee** | Name: Dr V Varney  Job Title: Consultant Physician  Trust/Employing body: Epsom and St Helier NHS trust  Email: veronica.varney@esth.nhs.uk  Tel:0208 296 2401 |
| **S****ummary of problem or reason for enquiry(3 sentences)** | Chylous effusions occur with surgical damage to the thoracic duct or cancer related damage. There is profound weight loss and immune paresis and surgical repair generally unsuccessful resulting in death. |
| **Briefly describe what information was found** | A haematology patient was suffering a chylous effusion for 6 months draining 2 litres a day. He was ill and very weak. The library did a literature search to look for UK surgeons with experience in thoracic duct surgery. The library found an interesting paper in which somatostatin was used to cure cats and dogs with chylous effusion. They obtained the paper for me and we tried to apply it to this patient. We had to use synthetic somatostatin-analogue called octreotide and guess the equivalent dose. The treatment worked and cured the patient in 5 days after 6 months with a chest drain!!! |
| **Give up to four short quotations demonstrating how patient care changed as a result of the information provided or found** | 1: A new treatment for chylous effusion was found and 2 publications resulted  2: There has been global interest in this treatment with e mails for advice for help not only for the UK but all over the world and feedback from these sources confirmed their success with this treatment also.  3: Our treatment has received mention in the UK guidelines on pleural conditions whereas previously they only stated that chylous effusions were milky in colour with a high triglyceride content but offered no treatment  4: After writing up the first patient 8 more patients occurred and responded to octreotide in 5 days leading to a second publication and case series. These papers are quoted frequently in the literature and in literature searches  . Chylous Effusions Complicating Lymphoma: A Serious Event with Octreotide as a  Treatment Option  Haematological Oncology (2003) 21: 77-81  The Successful treatment of Chylous Effusions in Malignant Disease with Octreotide  L Mincher, J Evans, M W Jenner, **V A Varney**  Clinical Oncology (2005) 17 (2) 118-121 |