

Temporal Trends in the Use of ECT in Europe

E. Verdura Vizcaíno¹, I. Vera², J. Sanz Fuentenebro²

¹Psychiatry, Fundación Jiménez Díaz, Madrid, Spain ; ²Psychiatry, Hospital de Parla, Madrid, Spain

Introduction: ECT is an effective and safe treatment for severe psychiatric disorders including major depressive disorders, bipolar mania and depression and acute exacerbations of schizophrenia according to clinical guidelines. However, an overall decline in the use of ECT utilization has been reported worldwide and concerns have been raised that ECT is being underused in some countries.

Objectives and aims: To describe temporal trends in ECT utilization rates in european countries

Methods: A systematic review was conducted of studies which reported on ECT temporal trends in european countries in the last 25 years

Results:

Author & year	Location	Period of time	Temporal trend & percentage change	
Munk-Olsen/2006	Denmark	1976-2000	↑	- 56%
Pippard/1992	England	1979-1989	↓	Use rate: 3,70-3,97: +6,8%
Andersson/2002	Denmark	1979-1999	↑	Patients: 2322-1710: -26,4%
UK DH Health/1999	United Kingdom	1985-1999	↑	Sessions: 137.940-65.930: -52.2%
Moksnes/2006	Norway	1988-2002	↓	Use rate: 1,23-2,00: +63%
Duffett /1999	Wales	1990-1996	↑	Use rate: 3,90-2,20: -43,6%
Glen/1999	Edinburgh	1992-1997	↑	Sessions 29,0-13,7: -52,8%
Okagbue/2008	Edinburgh	1993-2005	↑	Use rate: 3,33-1,33: -60%
Fergusson/2004	Scotland	1997-1999	↑	Sessions: 15,5-13,0: -16,1%
Golenkov/2010	Russia: Chuvash	1998-2007	↓	Use rate: 0,4-0,8: +200%
Van Waarde/2009	Netherlands	1998-2008	↓	Sessions: 1,8-8,5: +472%
Martínez-Amorós/2014	Catalunya	2002-2010	↓	Use rate: 0,57-1,15: +101,8%
Scott/2012	Edinburgh	2005-2007	↑	Use rate: 1,33-0,88: -33,8%
Dargasek/2012	Slovakia	2008-2010	↓	Use rate: 2,89-2,92: +1%

Conclusions: There had been a decrease in the use of ECT in recent years in Europe. However, recent publications suggest that its use may be stabilizing or even rebounding.