Conclusions

Electronic monitoring is becoming increasingly prevalent and in 2010 was introduced for the first time in forensic psychiatry. Although there have been some promising recent outcomes in terms of its effectiveness, this remains under-evaluated and there is an ongoing need for robust, well-designed studies in this area. As significant ethical and legal questions remain about the use of electronic monitoring, data from such studies are paramount for a balanced and meaningful debate.

GPS-based electronic monitoring should be seen in the context of other novel technological developments used in mental health. Recent outcomes suggest that it is more likely to be effective as the technology behind devices improves and becomes more user-friendly for both the monitoring authority and the patient.

As novel technologies become more prominent, there is an implicit danger in perceiving any tool as a panacea. Although these developments will continue to offer benefits to patients and healthcare providers, it is essential that they are seen and used as part of comprehensive care packages rather than isolated interventions.

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Jealousy in The Winter's Tale (Shakespeare c.1611)

Trevor Turner

Polixenes, King of Bohemia, thought King Leontes of Sicily's magnificent hospitality reflected friendship 'as twinned lambs that frisk in the sun'. However, within the 462 lines of Act 1, Leontes' 'rooted [. . .] affection' is twisted into 'a sickness which puts some of us in distemper'. By line 44 Leontes draws apart 'to observe' Polixenes 'paddling palms', and by line 108 he is muttering 'too hot, too hot', as his heart 'dances but not for joy'. Polixenes, warned to flee ('he thinks you have touched his queen forbiddenly') accepts that 'tis safer to avoid what's grown than question how 'tis born'.

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