

# Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

## SURVEY OF SERVICES FOR PATIENTS WITH SUSPECTED TIA OR MINOR STROKE IN THE UK

This questionnaire is being performed as part of research commissioned by the National Institutes of Health Research Health Technology Assessment Panel on cost effectiveness of imaging investigations in secondary stroke prevention.

Your help in obtaining as complete a picture of UK practice as possible is essential to ensuring the relevance and generalisability of this work.

The questionnaire aims to survey services for patients with suspected TIA/minor stroke with regard to organisation of clinics, numbers of patients seen, imaging techniques used, volume of work, and timing of procedures.

Please note that this survey refers to patients referred to hospital who are suspected of having suffered an ischaemic stroke or a TIA, regardless of what type of clinic or in patient service they are seen in at your hospital.

We have tried our best to make this questionnaire as quick and easy to fill as possible. Thank you for your time.

If you have any questions please contact:

Miriam Brazzelli  
Division of Clinical Neurosciences  
University of Edinburgh  
Telephone 0131 5372955  
E-mail [m.brazzelli@ed.ac.uk](mailto:m.brazzelli@ed.ac.uk)

Research Group: Professor Joanna Wardlaw, Professor Martin Dennis, Professor Peter Sandercock, Dr Janet de Wilde from the University of Edinburgh; Professor Keith Muir from the University of Glasgow, Dr. Donald Hadley from the Institute of Neurological Sciences in Glasgow, Dr Paul McNamee from the University of Aberdeen

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

I understand that my participation at this survey is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving any reason

I understand that the anonymised data collected through this survey will contribute to a Health Technology Assessment monograph.

I understand that all members of the research team are bound by the Data Protection Act (1998) and the Research Governance Framework for Health and Social Care (2005) to ensure confidentiality of all personal information obtained through this survey. I also understand that any data and quotations used from this survey will be anonymised in publications arising from this research project.

I agree to take part in the above research study and hereby assign the copyright of my contribution to this research to the University of Edinburgh, UK.

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**Do you have a dedicated TIA/minor stroke outpatient clinic for stroke prevention?**

Yes

No

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**If you do have a dedicated TIA/minor stroke clinic, how often does it run?**

- Daily
- Twice weekly
- Once a week
- Every two weeks
- Once a month
- Less than once a month
- Other (please specify below)

**If you have answered 'Other', please specify**

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**In your dedicated TIA/minor stroke clinic, approximately how many patients attend each time it runs?**

- 1 – 5 patients
- 6 – 10 patients
- 11 – 15 patients
- 16 – 20 patients
- More than 20 patients

**If known, please indicate approximate figure per year**

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**Approximately what proportion of patients attending the stroke clinic are ultimately diagnosed as having TIA or minor stroke?**

- 20% or less
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%
- Not known

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**What proportion of patients ultimately diagnosed as having TIA or minor stroke has already been prescribed by their GP/referring doctor secondary prevention drugs (e.g. aspirin; statin) in response to this index event?**

- None
- 20% or less
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%
- Not known

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**Are patients referred to the dedicated TIA clinic/minor stroke clinic from other hospitals?**

Yes

No



## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**Who runs the dedicated TIA/minor stroke clinic? (Please tick all that apply)**

- Geriatrician
- Neurologist
- Vascular surgeon
- Stroke physician
- General physician
- Other (please specify below)

**If you have answered 'Other', please specify**

# Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**Are a proportion of TIA/minor stroke patients seen in other clinics (i.e not in a dedicated TIA/minor stroke clinic)? If so, where? (Please tick all that apply)**

- Patients not seen elsewhere
- A & E department
- Geriatric clinic
- General vascular clinic
- Neurology clinic
- Other (please specify below)

**If you have answered 'Other', please specify**

**If known, please indicate the approximate proportion of TIA/minor stroke patients seen in other clinics**

Patients not seen elsewhere	<input type="text"/>
A & E department	<input type="text"/>
Geriatric clinic	<input type="text"/>
General vascular clinic	<input type="text"/>
Neurology clinic	<input type="text"/>

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

If you have a dedicated TIA/minor stroke clinic, please answer all the following questions with respect to it. If not, please answer them with respect to the clinic in which you see the most TIA/minor stroke patients.

# Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

## Who refers TIA/minor stroke patients to your clinic? (Please tick all that apply)

- GP
- Doctors within your hospital
- Doctors from others hospitals
- Other (please specify below)

## If you have answered 'Other', please specify

## If known, please indicate the approximate proportion of TIA/minor stroke patients referred to your clinic by:

GP	<input type="text"/>
Doctors within your hospital	<input type="text"/>
Doctors from others hospitals	<input type="text"/>

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**Once patients have been referred to your clinic, on average how long do they wait for an appointment?**

- Within 24 hours
- Between 1-3 days
- Between 3-7 days
- Between 1-2 weeks
- Between 2-4 weeks
- Between 1-3 months
- Other (please specify below)

**If you have answered 'Other', please specify**

**If you have data on median waiting times and range, please provide brief details**

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**What type of clinician actually sees the TIA/minor stroke patients? (Please tick for all those who are involved)**

- Stroke physician
- Geriatrician
- Vascular physician/surgeon
- Neurologist
- General physician
- Nurse specialist
- Other (please specify)

**If you have answered 'Other', please specify**

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**Do nurses or nurse specialists undertake the medical assessment or triaging of patients?**

Yes

No

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**If trainee doctors or nurse specialists assist in the clinic, how is the final diagnosis established?**

- Diagnosis always made with or by a consultant
- Diagnosis sometimes made with or by a consultant
- Not applicable
- Other (please specify below)

**If you have answered 'Other', please specify**



## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

Approximately how many doctors are involved in patient assessment in the clinic?

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**Do the TIA/minor stroke patients usually undergo brain or neck arteries imaging before or after the doctor's assessment?**

	Brain imaging (Tick one)	Neck arteries imaging (Tick one)
Same day, but before	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Before (more than 1 day)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Same day, but after	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After (more than 1 day)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixture of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not scanned	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**If a TIA/minor stroke patient undergo brain or neck arteries imaging after the clinical doctor's assessment, generally when does the imaging take place?**

	Brain imaging (Tick one)	Neck arteries imaging (Tick one)
At the same hospital visit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Within 24 hours	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Between 1-7 days	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Between 1-2 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Between 2-4 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Between 1-3 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More than 3 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**Where do patients usually go for routine brain or neck arteries imaging (e.g. ultrasound)?**

	Brain imaging (Tick one)	Neck arteries imaging (Tick one)
At same hospital	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At different hospital	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

Which brain modality is routinely used? (Please tick all that apply)

- CT
- MR (please specify sequences below)
- Other (please specify below)

Please specify MR sequences

If you have answered 'Other', please specify

Between CT and MRI, please indicate the most frequently used

- CT
- MRI

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**In general when are brain imaging results (i.e. CT or MRI) received back at the clinic?**

- Within 24 hours
- Next day
- Within 1 week
- More than 1 week
- Not applicable

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**Is ultrasound (DUS) used routinely in your clinic as the first line carotid/vertebral imaging investigation?**

Yes

No (please specify below)

**If yes, approximately in what proportion of TIA/minor stroke patients is ultrasound (DUS) routinely used?**

**If no, please specify what other test is used as first line investigation**

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**In general when are neck arteries imaging results received back at the clinic?**

- Within 24 hours
- Less than 1 week
- Less than 1 month
- More than 1 month
- Not applicable



## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**Are important positive results (e.g. 70-99% stenosis) fed back to the clinic immediately?**

- Yes
- No
- Sometimes
- Not applicable

# Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**If further tests are needed to confirm the ultrasound/initial neck imaging results, e.g. prior to referral for endarterectomy, what tests are used? (Please tick all that apply)**

- Ultrasound
- CTA
- MRA – non contrast
- MRA – with contrast
- Intra-arterial angiography (IAA)
- Other (please specify below)

**If you have answered 'Other', please specify**

**Approximately, in what proportion of TIA/minor stroke patients are the following imaging tests used?**

Ultrasound	<input type="text"/>
CTA	<input type="text"/>
MRA - non contrast	<input type="text"/>
MRA - with contrast	<input type="text"/>
Intra-arterial angiography (IAA)	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

If further imaging tests are required, approximately how long do you wait in total for the test to be done and the results sent to you? (Please tick one for each column)

	DUS	CTA	MRA	IAA
Within 24 hours	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 week or less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 month or less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More than 1 month	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

Who generally performs and interprets the tests? (Please tick one for each column)

	DUS	CTA	MRA	IAA
Neuroradiologist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General radiologist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vascular technician/radiographer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vascular radiologist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have answered 'Other', please specify

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**If it is decided that a patient should have a carotid endarterectomy, in general what is the delay between deciding to operate and the operation?**

- Less than 1 week
- Less than 1 month
- Less than 3 months
- Less than 6 months
- More than 6 months
- Not applicable

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**Is there spare capacity in your clinic to see more patients with the current existing resources?**

Yes

No

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**If there is no extra capacity in your clinic, what extra facilities are needed to expand the clinic? (Please tick all that apply)**

- More outpatient rooms
- More consultants
- More trainee doctors
- More brain imaging
- More neck arteries imaging
- Not applicable

**If you have answered 'More brain imaging', please tick all the relevant imaging methods**

- CT
- MRI

**If you have answered 'More neck arteries imaging' please tick all the relevant imaging methods**

- DUS
- CTA
- MRA
- IAA

## Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

What is approximately your catchment population?



# Services for patients with suspected TIA or minor stroke in the UK

**Please provide the following information:**

Your name

Your designation

Name of your hospital

NHS Board/Health Authority/NHS Trust

**Do you have any additional comments regarding this survey?**

THANK YOU FOR FILLING IN THIS SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

## **Covering letter for the clinical leads of stroke prevention services in the UK**

Dear Colleague,

### **RE: SURVEY OF SECONDARY STROKE PREVENTION SERVICES IN THE UK**

We are funded by the NHS R&D Health Technology Assessment (HTA) programme to determine the "Cost effectiveness of imaging investigations in secondary stroke prevention" in the UK. We seek accurate information on current provision of clinical services in the UK for secondary prevention of stroke, with particular regard to volume of work, capacity, professionals involved, and timing of investigations in TIA/minor stroke clinics.

We understand that you are the Clinical Lead of the stroke services in your hospital/town. We are therefore inviting you to complete an on-line survey with respect to secondary stroke prevention services in your area. As this is a national project, funded by the NHS R&D programme, your response is crucial to ensuring that precise and reliable data are available for this research.

The information derived from this survey will be treated in strict confidence. Your identity and location will be known only to the members of the research team who are bound by the Research Governance Framework for Health and Social Care (2005) to maintain confidentiality regarding all personal information collected in the course of this research. Any publications arising from this project, including the full HTA report, will contain only anonymised data.

If you are not the right person to complete this survey (i.e. if you are not responsible for running the stroke clinic), we apologise for bothering you but would be extremely grateful if you could tell us who the correct person is or forward this message to him/her (but please let us know who he/she is for our records).

The following link will take you to the survey:

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QVZ5HPQ>**

The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. You can exit it at any time, without the information entered thus far being saved or sent to us, by clicking on the 'Exit Survey' link in the top right corner of the survey page.

We would be grateful if you could complete the survey by May 13th. We greatly appreciate your taking the time to contribute to this project.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the project co-ordinator: Dr Miriam Brazzelli, Division of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Edinburgh, Telephone 0131 5372955, E-mail m.brazzelli@ed.ac.uk, myself (martin.dennis@ed.ac.uk), or the project principal investigator Professor Joanna Wardlaw, Division of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Edinburgh, E-mail joanna.wardlaw@ed.ac.uk. Thank you in advance for your help and co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

*Martin Dennis*

Professor of Stroke Medicine

Chair of National Advisory Committee for Stroke

Division of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Edinburgh