Access to imaging facilities for the diagnosis of stroke/TIA in the UK

ACCESS TO IMAGING FACILITIES FOR THE DIAGNOSIS TIA/MINOR STROKE IN THE UK

This questionnaire survey is being performed as part of research commissioned by the National Institutes of Health Research Health Technology Assessment Panel on cost Computerised axial tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) are used for the diagnosis and management of patients with acute stroke. Urgent access to CT and MRI scanners is, however, often limited in many hospitals, in many geographical areas.

This survey examines availability and access to scanning facilities for patients suspected of stroke or TIA. Please answer the following questions in relation to your department/directorate. Please note that throughout this survey, we refer to patients suspected of having suffered an ischaemic stroke or primary intracerebral haemorrhage but NOT a subarachnoid haemorrhage.

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:

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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

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I understand that my partecipation 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.

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Are facilities for CT scanning available in your department/directorate?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

If you have answered 'Yes' how many CT scanners are there?

Please indicate the manufacturer and model type of CT scanners.

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Are facilities for CT scanning available for patients with suspected TIA/minor stroke in your department/directorate?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

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Is out of hours CT scanning available for patients with suspected TIA/minor stroke at your department/directorate?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

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Are patients with suspected TIA/minor stroke referred from your hospital to another hospital for CT scanning?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

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Are facilities for MRI scanning available in your department/directorate?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

If you have answered 'Yes' how many MR scanners are there?

Please indicate the manufacturer, field of strength, and model type of MR scanners.

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Are facilities for MRI scanning available for patients with suspected TIA/minor stroke in your department/directorate?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

Access to imaging facilities for the diagnosis of stroke/TIA in the UK

Is out of hours MR scanning available for patients with suspected TIA/minor stroke at your department/directorate?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

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Which MR sequences are usually used to assess patients with suspected TIA/minor stroke? (Please tick all that apply)

- [ ] T1/T2
- [ ] DWI
- [ ] FLAIR
- [ ] GRE
- [ ] Other

If you have answered 'Other', please specify

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Are patients with suspected TIA/minor stroke referred from your hospital to another hospital for MRI scanning?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

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Please answer the following questions related to your department activity for the year 2010. If you do not have ready access to precise data, please provide approximate figures.

How many CT brain scans were conducted in total in 2010?

What proportion of the CT brain scans were conducted after hours?

How many of the CT brain scans were for patients with suspected TIA/minor stroke?

What proportion of the CT brain scans for patients with suspected TIA/minor stroke were conducted after hours?

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Approximately what proportion of patients with suspected TIA/minor stroke who were assessed by CT in 2010 was ultimately diagnosed as having TIA or minor stroke?

Access to imaging facilities for the diagnosis of stroke/TIA in the UK

Approximately what proportion of patients suspected of TIA/minor stroke with an initial negative CT undertook MRI in 2010?

Access to imaging facilities for the diagnosis of stroke/TIA in the UK

Please answer the following questions related to your department activity for the year 2010. If you do not have ready access to precise data, please provide approximate figures.

How many MR brain scans were conducted in total in 2010?

What proportion of the MR brain scans were conducted after hours?

How many of the MR brain scans were for patients with suspected TIA/minor stroke?

What proportion of the MR brain scans for patients with suspected TIA/minor stroke were conducted after hours?

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Approximately what proportion of patients suspected of TIA/minor stroke who were assessed by MRI in 2010 was ultimately diagnosed as having TIA or minor stroke?

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Could you perform CT to patients suspected of TIA/minor stroke during normal working hours on WEEK DAYS?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ Yes but with difficulty
- ◯ No

If yes, would you please indicate approximately the proportion (%) of those scanned during normal working hours on week days with suspected TIA/minor stroke who are:

Inpatients _____

Outpatients _____

For inpatients suspected of TIA/minor stroke please indicate when CT is usually performed (if applicable)

- ◯ Immediately
- ◯ Within 24 hours
- ◯ Within 48 hours
- ◯ Within 7 days
- ◯ Within 2 weeks
- ◯ Within 1 month
- ◯ Beyond 1 month

In general, when are imaging results given back/reported?

- ◯ Immediately
- ◯ Next day
- ◯ Same week
- ◯ Next week

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For outpatients suspected of TIA/minor stroke please indicate when CT is usually performed (if applicable)?

- ◯ Immediately
- ◯ Within 24 hours
- ◯ Within 48 hours
- ◯ Within 7 days
- ◯ Within 2 weeks
- ◯ Within 1 month
- ◯ Beyond 1 month

In general, when are imaging results given back/reported?

- ◯ Immediately
- ◯ Next day
- ◯ Same week
- ◯ Next week

Access to imaging facilities for the diagnosis of stroke/TIA in the UK

Could you perform CT to patients suspected of TIA/minor stroke outside normal working hours or on WEEKENDS?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ Yes but with difficulty
- ◯ No

If yes, would you please indicate approximately the proportion (%) of those scanned outside normal working hours or at weekends with suspected TIA/minor stroke who are:

Inpatients _____

Outpatients _____

For inpatients suspected of TIA/minor stroke please indicate when CT is usually performed (if applicable)

- ◯ Immediately
- ◯ Within 24 hours
- ◯ Within 48 hours
- ◯ Within 7 days
- ◯ Within 2 weeks
- ◯ Within 1 month
- ◯ Beyond 1 month

In general, when are imaging results given back/reported?

- ◯ Immediately
- ◯ Next day
- ◯ Same week
- ◯ Next week

Access to imaging facilities for the diagnosis of stroke/TIA in the UK

For outpatients suspected of stroke/TIA please indicate when CT is usually performed (if applicable)?

- ◯ Immediately
- ◯ Within 24 hours
- ◯ Within 48 hours
- ◯ Within 7 days
- ◯ Within 2 weeks
- ◯ Within 1 month
- ◯ Beyond 1 month

In general, when are imaging results given back/reported?

- ◯ Immediately
- ◯ Next day
- ◯ Same week
- ◯ Next week

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Could you perform MRI to patients suspected of TIA/minor stroke during normal working hours on WEEK DAYS?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ Yes but with difficulty
- ◯ No

If yes, would you please indicate approximately the proportion (%) of those scanned during normal working hours on week days with suspected TIA/minor stroke who are:

Inpatients _____

Outpatients _____

For inpatients suspected of TIA/minor stroke please indicate when MRI is usually performed (if applicable)

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- ◯ Next day
- ◯ Same week
- ◯ Next week

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Could you perform MRI to patients suspected of TIA/minor stroke outside normal working hours or on WEEKENDS?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ Yes but with difficulty
- ◯ No

If yes, would you please indicate approximately the proportion (%) of those scanned outside normal working hours or at weekends with suspected TIA/minor stroke who are:

Inpatients _____

Outpatients _____

For inpatients suspected of TIA/minor stroke please indicate when MRI is usually performed (if applicable)

- ◯ Immediately
- ◯ Within 24 hours
- ◯ Within 48 hours
- ◯ Within 7 days
- ◯ Within 2 weeks
- ◯ Within 1 month
- ◯ Beyond 1 month

In general, when are imaging results given back/reported?

- ◯ Immediately
- ◯ Next day
- ◯ Same week
- ◯ Next week

Access to imaging facilities for the diagnosis of stroke/TIA in the UK

For outpatients suspected of TIA/minor stroke please indicate when MRI is usually performed (if applicable)?

- ◯ Immediately
- ◯ Within 24 hours
- ◯ Within 48 hours
- ◯ Within 7 days
- ◯ Within 2 weeks
- ◯ Within 1 month
- ◯ Beyond 1 month

In general, when are imaging results given back/reported?

- ◯ Immediately
- ◯ Next day
- ◯ Same week
- ◯ Next week

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Which brain imaging test is routinely used in your department for patients suspected of TIA/minor stroke? (Please tick all that apply)

- [ ] CT
- [ ] MR: DWI; T2 equivalent; T1 equivalent
- [ ] MR: DWI; T2 equivalent; T1 equivalent; FLAIR equivalent
- [ ] MR: DWI; T2 equivalent; T1 equivalent; FLAIR equivalent; GRE/T2* equivalent
- [ ] Other MR sequences
- [ ] Other brain imaging test(s)

If you have answered 'Other MR sequences', please specify sequences

If you have answered 'Other brain imaging test(s)', please specify test(s)

Would you please list the brain imaging tests routinely used in your departments for TIA/minor stroke patients in order of relevance (1, 2, 3, etc.)?

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Imagine your department were to undertake more brain imaging scans. Please indicate what percentage increase in workload would result in the need for any of the following actions.

Patients would be referred to another hospital for a brain imaging scan

Employ additional radiographic staff

Employ additional radiologists/neuroradiologists

Undertake any additional brain imaging scan out of normal working hours

Purchase additional scanners

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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 imaging services in the UK

Dear Colleague,

RE: ACCESS TO IMAGING FACILITIES FOR PATIENTS WITH SUSPECTED TIA OR MINOR STROKE 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 CT and MR imaging services in the UK for secondary prevention of stroke, with particular regard to volume of work, capacity, and timing of investigations in radiology departments.

We understand from the Diagnostic Imaging Clinical Network that you are the Clinical Director of the Radiology Department in your hospital/town. We are therefore inviting you to complete an on-line survey. The survey contains questions on your current imaging facilities, working hours, waiting times, and on the impact that any increase in demand for MR scanning would have on Radiology workload. As this is a national project, funded by the NHS R&D panel, your response is crucial to ensuring that precise and reliable data are available for this research.

The information derived from this on-line 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 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's web-page:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QVPW2DV

The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. You can exit it at any time, without the information entered so 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, or myself (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,

Professor Joanna Wardlaw

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