

A randomised trial to evaluate improved routine communication to patients and carers after stroke

Submission date 23/01/2004	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 23/01/2004	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 02/10/2012	Condition category Circulatory System	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Not provided at time of registration

Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number

RCRC9C YOUNG R&D

Study information

Scientific Title

Study objectives

The provision of clear information following a stroke has been identified as a key component of good care by both health professionals and patients. The provision to the patient and family of understandable, appropriate and correct information may be effective in positively influencing post-stroke home care. However, a number of recent reports have demonstrated that the implementation of this policy into routine practice may be difficult to achieve. Several small studies in the UK have highlighted the difficulties in successfully implementing strategies for information provision. No evidence of effectiveness in reducing anxiety or improving social functioning has been reported but there was a suggestion that the patients were more satisfied with their level of knowledge and appreciated booklets. It is likely that the method of delivering the information is as important as its content. Simply providing information, particularly when set in a complex area such as stroke, may be too simplistic as it is too passive an approach. A more active, educational approach may be successful. Thus a formal educational or teaching programme specifically designed for patients and carers may have some special relevance. Such an experimental educational programme was established and evaluated in the USA and reported positive effects including improving caregiver stroke knowledge and family coping strategies. To develop this work further we are going to evaluate by randomised trial the effectiveness of a short educational programme for patients and caregivers after stroke.

Research Questions

1. That a structured package of information provision for patients recovering from stroke and their carers is associated with improved to usual (unstructured) information provision.
2. That a structured package delivered by a facilitator is more effective than either simple provision of the structured information, or usual care.

The primary outcome of interest is patient and carer understanding of stroke, with a secondary outcome of reduction in handicap.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Not provided at time of registration

Study design

Randomised controlled trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Cardiovascular diseases: Cerebrovascular disease

Interventions

1. Group 1 Unstructured information provision
2. Group 2 Structured information provision - the Stroke Recovery Programme
3. Group 3 Stroke Recovery Programme delivered by a facilitator

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Specified

Primary outcome(s)

1. Knowledge about Stroke and Service questionnaire
2. London Handicap Scale

Key secondary outcome(s)

1. Patients will be asked to complete
 - 1.1. Patients Satisfaction Questionnaire
 - 1.2. Frenchay Activities Index
 - 1.3. Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale
2. Carers will be asked to complete
 - 2.1. General Health Questionnaire
 - 2.2. Carers Satisfaction Questionnaire

An estimate of the resource use will be made by recording the time taken by the three specialist nurses during the one-to-one sessions with patients and carers.

Completion date

12/01/2002

Eligibility**Key inclusion criteria**

The Bradford Stroke Unit receives patients of any age shortly after stroke onset (average 11 days) who are sufficiently medically stable to participate in a rehabilitation programme. On admission patients and their carers (if available) will be screened for recruitment into the trial within three days of transfer. Patients will be eligible for the trial if they have a diagnosis of acute stroke and give informed consent. Thus we will be recruiting a heterogeneous study sample of patients (n=220) with various stroke impairments and differing ethnic backgrounds. For patients with severe aphasia or stroke related cognitive impairment the main emphasis of the information provision will be directed toward the main carer.

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Other

Sex

Not Specified

Key exclusion criteria

Does not match inclusion criteria

Date of first enrolment

11/01/1999

Date of final enrolment

12/01/2002

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre

Bradford Hospitals NHS Trust

Bradford

United Kingdom

BD5 0NA

Sponsor information

Organisation

NHS R&D Regional Programme Register - Department of Health (UK)

Funder(s)

Funder type

Government

Funder Name

NHS Executive Northern and Yorkshire (UK)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	01/11/2004		Yes	No
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes