

Decision-making capacity in patients presenting to the Accident and Emergency Services

Submission date
12/09/2003

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

☐ Prospectively registered

☐ Protocol

Registration date
12/09/2003

Overall study status
Completed

☐ Statistical analysis plan

☐ Results

Last Edited
05/12/2014

Condition category
Injury, Occupational Diseases, Poisoning

☐ Individual participant data

☐ Record updated in last year

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
N0544116543

Study information

Scientific Title
Decision-making capacity in patients presenting to the Accident and Emergency Services

Study objectives

To investigate the decision-making capacity in patients presenting to the Accident and Emergency Services, with deliberate self-harm, alcohol intoxication and physical illness.

Hypotheses: Incapacity of patients to consent to treatment will be associated with mental disorders, increased blood alcohol levels and serious physical illness.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Not provided at time of registration

Primary study design

Interventional

Study design

Randomised controlled trial

Study type(s)

Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Injury, Occupational Diseases, Poisoning: Self harm

Interventions

The Accident and Emergency Services are an area of medical practice where rapid health care decisions have to be made, often in the context of life threatening illness. Patients may present who are unconscious and are therefore unable to consent to these decisions. Alternatively patients who have the capacity to make an informed choice, may refuse the proposed treatment. The decision-making capacity of patients may be impaired by temporary factors including serious physical or mental illness, substance misuse or permanent conditions such as learning disabilities.

We propose to assess decision-making capacity of patients presenting to the Accident and Emergency Services, with specific emphasis on the categories of deliberate self-harm and alcohol abuse. These categories of patients commonly present to the Accident and Emergency Services and on occasion lack capacity to consent or refuse treatment.

The Law Commission defines incapacity, as 'the inability to understand relevant information, retain this information, or make a decision based on the information given'.

Using this as a framework, patients will be tested for their ability to consent to a health care intervention. In addition to tests of capacity, patients will be breathalysed to assess the relationship between the degree of alcohol intoxication and lack of capacity. For patients presenting with deliberate self-harm, routine rating scales will be used to assess presence and severity of psychopathology. A random, consecutive sample of patients presenting to Casualty will also be included to serve as a control group and comparisons of decision-making capacity will be made between the three study groups.

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Specified

Primary outcome(s)

Not provided at time of registration

Key secondary outcome(s)

Not provided at time of registration

Completion date

15/08/2005

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

40 subjects 18 years or over.

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 Years

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

Not provided at time of registration

Date of first enrolment

16/08/2002

Date of final enrolment

15/08/2005

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre
Addenbrooke's NHS Trust
Cambridge
United Kingdom
CB2 2QQ

Sponsor information

Organisation
Department of Health (UK)

Funder(s)

Funder type
Hospital/treatment centre

Funder Name
Cambridge Consortium - Addenbrooke's

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary
Not provided at time of registration