Emergency Care of Stroke

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Introduction

- Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh
- Teaching Hospital
- ED ~ 350-400 patients per day
- Largest ED in Scotland
Hx of Stroke Care & Need for Improvement

• 2013 Audit revealed a mean DTN of 92 mins (worst 173 mins)

• Only 15% of our pts thrombolysised within 60 mins

This was not good enough!

We had to improve and FAST!!

What did we do?
Improvement Methods

• New triage system

• Improved pre-alert calls from SAS

• Any FAST +ve patients within 4.5 hours treated as a Resus patient

• ED and SAS agreed on this policy

• Pre-alert call was standardised for all SAS personnel

• Education throughout specialties

• Centralised potential thrombolysis patients to one hospital
Improvement Methods

• Site specialty meetings

• Paperwork reviewed and simplified (ongoing)

• All nurses to be trained in swallow assessment (currently 75%)

• Swallow assessments on all patients ASAP

• Involve relatives immediately

• Named person to liaise with relatives o/a
• Early recognition
• Pre-alert by SAS
• ED pre-alert Radiology and Stroke Team
• Arrive ED
• Confirm onset time
• Order CT scan
• Contact Radiology and Stroke team if not yet in attendance
• Nurse escort to CT (Doctor if required)

• Meantime review PMHx and DH

• Discuss with family

• Review results and confirm diagnosis
DTN ≤ 60 minutes
Improvement Methods - Audit

• Continue to audit and include intra-cerebral haemorrhages
• Audit all complication rates
• Audit all outcomes
• Audit the entire patient journey
Improvement Methods - Basics

• Get the Basics right!
  • Pre-alert
  • Early CT
  • Correct team in place
  • Early patient history
  • Documentation
  • Swallow Assessment
Improvement Methods - Collaboration

• Team event

• It is vital to work together – no-one can do it alone!
Future Improvement

• Continual Staff Education – Multi-professional team
• Continually reviewing and improving paperwork
• 100% nursing staff trained in swallow assessment
• Keep family involved – we need their information
• Consider radiographer on site 24/7
Conclusion & Key Messages

• Continual cycle
• Work together
• Audit and Research
• Improve patient outcomes
• Team event – multi-professional, patient and family
What about now?

74% of ALL suitable thrombolysis patients have a DTN time of under 60 mins!!

Best DTN last month = 19 minutes (OOH)
Thank you

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