

# Info●Point

Issue 1, April 2012

## Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA)

This is the first in an experimental series of briefings on local CCG priority topics in Gateshead, South Tyneside or Sunderland. We hope it gives you a taste of relevant information resources. Please let us know your views about the usefulness of this approach at [library@sotw.nhs.uk](mailto:library@sotw.nhs.uk)

### Where to start?

If this is your first look at this topic, you may be wondering where do I start looking? How do I go about finding information? Where do I get the latest and most up to date information?

A good starting point is to find out if there are any local networks or groups working in your area?

### Local networks.....

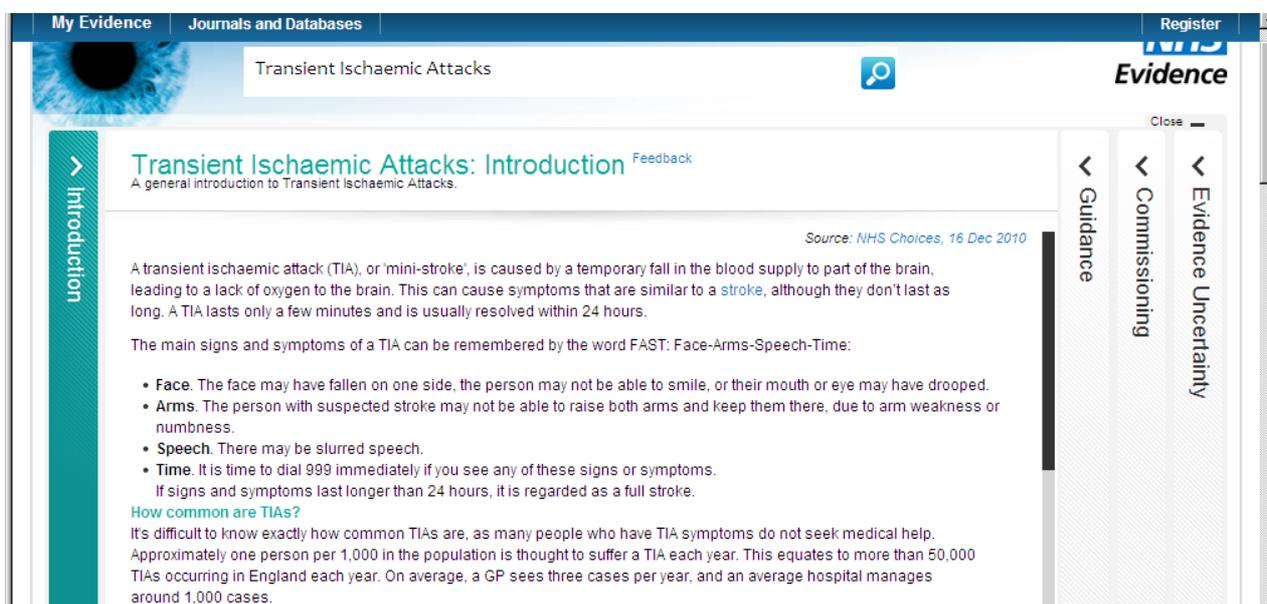
The North of England Cardiovascular Network (NECVN) has a very good website giving up to date information on service improvement, events, guidance etc. and is well worth a visit. It is made up of clinicians, managers, PCT staff, commissioners, ambulance staff etc. working to improve services.

<http://www.necvn.nhs.uk/content.aspx?id=66>

And, of course, don't forget to ask your colleagues and other professionals working in the same subject area for tips and suggestions.

### In a hurry - want some pointers?

One quick starting point - search on "TIA" in NNS Evidence (as well as your usual web search!). <https://www.evidence.nhs.uk/>



The screenshot shows the NNS Evidence interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'My Evidence', 'Journals and Databases', and 'Register'. A search bar contains the text 'Transient Ischaemic Attacks'. Below the search bar, the main content area displays the title 'Transient Ischaemic Attacks: Introduction' with a 'Feedback' link. The text describes a TIA as a temporary fall in blood supply to the brain, leading to symptoms similar to a stroke. It lists the FAST acronym: Face, Arms, Speech, and Time. A sidebar on the right contains navigation links for 'Guidance', 'Commissioning', and 'Evidence Uncertainty'.

## ***What about further afield?***

### **Good Practice and Innovation**

Do you want to know who has tried out new ways of working? We've highlighted just a few examples below:

#### **West Middlesex Hospital**

Outline of Stroke and TIA services, including TIA clinics and TIA patient pathway  
<http://alturl.com/ovgnr>

**NCLCVSN** -Improving the TIA pathway for high and low risk patients across North Central London. A pathway approach to commissioning stroke and TIA services.  
<http://www.nclcvsn.org.uk/stroke>

**Isle of Wight NHS** - A Commissioning Strategy for Stroke 2009 - 2013  
<http://alturl.com/4ppu3>

#### **Doncaster PCT - TIA pathway redesign group (Feb 2011)**

This project aims to redesign the current Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA) pathway to meet the recommendation of the National Stroke Strategy. <http://alturl.com/hf7em>  
It includes charts of the Doncaster TIA – current pathway <http://alturl.com/5doro>  
and Doncaster TIA - future pathway <http://alturl.com/7sjaf>

**Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen NHS Trust (June 2010)** - Pathway for Suspected Stroke or TIA <http://alturl.com/5qq5s>

**Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust (August 2010)** - TIA Pathway Checklist version  
<http://alturl.com/b6uvv>

**Department of Health: Progress in improving stroke care (Feb 2010)**  
<http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0910/stroke.aspx>

This report looks at the progress in stroke treatment and services since the introduction of the government's Stroke Strategy in 2007.

## ***What about new stuff? How do I keep up to date?***

Current awareness bulletins are a really good way to keep up to date with your chosen topic. Here are two examples for stroke:

#### **Stroke Bulletin (from TIN – The Improvement Network)**

<http://www.tin.nhs.uk/welcome/keeping-up-to-date/bulletin-menu/stroke>

This bulletin is produced every two months and contains the latest NICE guidelines, systematic reviews, economic evaluations, health technology assessments, newly published articles, the latest journal tables of contents and NHS Behind the Headlines news stories. You can download this as a PDF or subscribe to the email version at:  
[http://www.netvibes.com/keeping-up-to-date#Specialist\\_Bulletins](http://www.netvibes.com/keeping-up-to-date#Specialist_Bulletins)

## **NECVN Stroke Service Improvement Update**

Aims to keep local Stroke groups abreast of Network development and work being undertaken.

<http://www.necvn.nhs.uk/content.aspx?id=104>

Once you register for one of these services, you can usually select the topics you want alerting to and how often you want to receive them.

## **Service Delivery & Management**

### ***The serious stuff.....***

**NHS Improvement – Stroke: supporting the development of stroke care networks**

<http://www.improvement.nhs.uk/stroke/>

**NHS Improvement - Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA)**

Supporting resources, including case studies <http://alturl.com/i4hug>

**Practical Principles for Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA)**

Four page summary of the key elements to address in streamlining referrals and developing the care pathway, with pointers to case studies.

NHS Improvement - TIA <http://alturl.com/3vbsi>

**NHS Evidence - TIA topic (inc. Commissioning and Guidance)**

<https://www.evidence.nhs.uk/topic/transient-ischaemic-attacks>

### ***The official stuff.....***

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has produced guidance on treatment and on care pathways. The Department of Health has set up a stroke improvement programme to support the development of local **stroke networks**:

[http://www.improvement.nhs.uk/stroke/documents/Stroke\\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.improvement.nhs.uk/stroke/documents/Stroke_Flyer.pdf)

**Clinical Guideline CG68 - Commissioning a service for the diagnosis and initial management of transient ischaemic attack and non-disabling stroke**

<http://alturl.com/ttdbj>

**Clinical Guideline CG68 – Diagnosis and initial management of acute stroke and transient ischaemic attack (TIA)**

<http://alturl.com/cdozk>

**TIA service - Ensuring corporate and quality assurance (NICE)**

<http://alturl.com/8w3zd>

**National Stroke Association Guidelines for the Management of TIA**

<http://alturl.com/natw6>

**SIGN guideline 108 - Management of patients with stroke or TIA: assessment, investigation, immediate management and secondary prevention**

<http://www.sign.ac.uk/guidelines/fulltext/108/index.html>

## Clinical Management

### *The hard stuff.....*

Prompt clinical management of TIAs is essential. These links provide a snapshot of clinical information on the diagnosis, treatment and management of TIAs in various settings including primary and secondary care and through long term care and support.

### **Stroke and transient ischaemic attack – Management**

Summary of evidence-based information and practical 'know how' about the common conditions managed in primary care, aimed at professionals working in primary and first-contact care from Prodigy.

[http://www.prodigy.clarity.co.uk/stroke\\_and\\_tia](http://www.prodigy.clarity.co.uk/stroke_and_tia)

**NICE clinical guideline CG68** - Diagnosis and initial management of acute stroke and transient ischaemic attack (TIA)

<http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/12018/41331/41331.pdf>

**National Stroke Association Guidelines** for the Management of TIA

[http://www.stroke.org/site/DocServer/TIA\\_Guidelines\\_070506\\_sm.pdf?docID=2361](http://www.stroke.org/site/DocServer/TIA_Guidelines_070506_sm.pdf?docID=2361)

**SIGN guideline 108** - Management of patients with stroke or TIA: assessment, investigation, immediate management and secondary prevention

<http://www.sign.ac.uk/guidelines/fulltext/108/index.html>

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This briefing was produced by South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's Key Library Information and Knowledge Service (KLIKS) for Clinical Commissioning Groups.

If you need help with any aspect of this briefing or want to influence future topics of the briefing, please contact:

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