



ENCEPH UK

Understanding and Improving the
Outcome of Encephalitis



The team

The ENCEPH-UK Programme would not be possible without the coordinating team at the Liverpool Brain Infections UK centre at the Ronald Ross Building, University of Liverpool. We introduce you briefly to the research studies in this newsletter. Subsequently we will update on how the studies are doing and give you some highlights on the studies!

Little introduction is required for our infamous Chief Investigator Prof Tom Solomon, also known as the Running Mad Professor!



Some members of the Liverpool Brain Infections UK Group

Welcome to the first ENCEPH-UK newsletter

Through regular newsletters we hope to keep you up to date on the progress of the ENCEPH-UK programme of studies. In this first newsletter we'll introduce you to some of the team members & update you on progress.

The programme of studies includes a study of people who have had encephalitis in the past (the retrospective study), or were thought to have had when they were admitted. This looks at the longer term effects of the illness.

It also includes a study that will follow patients as they are diagnosed in real time (our prospective study) and will look at what problems they have when they go to hospital and some of the short to medium terms effects of the illness. We will also collect some samples to look at the disease processes in more detail to aid making the diagnosis in the future.

Encephalitis (inflammation of the brain substance) is one of the most important types of brain injury. It is often caused by a virus, or by the body's defence system. It often has a devastating impact on the patient, their family and carers.

For the number of people affected, the costs to the NHS and society are disproportionately large, because of the nature of the brain damage caused.

In this NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research award, over the next five years we will:

- Study the clinical predictors of Encephalitis, and of poor outcome
- Better understand those outcomes in terms of cognitive function, quality of life, and cost
- Develop the means of intervening to improve the outcome

It is a large study covering many hospital sites



Now Recruiting!

- The first hospital to gain approvals for recruiting into this study was the Royal Liverpool University Hospital on the 18th of October 2012
- And our first patient was recruited on the 18th of October 2012 too!
- We now have 6 hospital sites open with a few more very close! Although we have got national approval for the study, each hospital reviews all the paperwork too and sometimes this takes time!
- We now have 10 patient in our prospective study; this is higher than our target for this time point and is very good considering encephalitis is not common!
- In our retrospective study we have had 32 people who have agreed and work has started in the sub-studies that look at the longer term effects; further discussion on these will come in future newsletter!

Useful websites

- www.encephalitis.info
- www.braininfections.org
- www.encephuk.org

If you want to learn more about the studies and get involved contact us: 0151 7959649 or encephuk@liverpool.ac.uk



Merry Christmas

