

ENCHANTED Trial – Can we improve the emergency treatment of stroke? - January 2018

The George Institute
for Global Health

Facts:

- 17 million people have a stroke each year, and the global stroke burden is rising.
- 80% of stroke is due to a blocked blood vessel in the brain, called ischaemic stroke.
- Globally, there is a large evidence practice gap, with few people treated in low and middle-income countries.

Partners:

The George Institute
for Global Health

Supporters:

National Health and Medical Research
Council, (NHMRC) Australia

UK Stroke Association

Takeda (China) International Trading Co.
Ltd

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Background:

- The commonest cause of stroke is due to a blocked blood vessel (ischaemic stroke) but current best treatment (a clot busting medication, called thrombolysis) is unaffordable in many countries due to the cost of treatment.
- Low-dose thrombolysis is widely used in Asia but it is not established whether this is as effective as the standard dose used elsewhere.
- Another treatment, blood pressure lowering, is safe and effective for haemorrhagic stroke but has not been widely tested in ischaemic stroke, and might reduce the bleeding risks of thrombolysis in addition to other benefits.

Aims:

The ENCHANTED trial will establish whether:

- Low-dose thrombolysis is an effective alternative to standard dose thrombolysis (Results published on NEJM in May 2016).
- Intensive blood pressure lowering improves outcome and safety for those given stroke thrombolysis.

Methods:

- ENCHANTED is a randomised controlled trial, separately testing the effects of the two interventions of interest.
- The low-dose thrombolysis arm of ENCHANTED successfully recruited 3310 patients from 12 countries around the world and the results will be presented at the European Stroke Organisation Conference in Barcelona on Tuesday 10th May 2016.
- The intensive blood pressure lowering arm of ENCHANTED has received new NHMRC support and aims to recruit 2304 patients by 2018.

Impact:

- The ENCHANTED program will establish, for the first time, the benefits of low-dose thrombolysis
- The ENCHANTED program will establish, for the first time, the effectiveness of blood pressure lowering, a widely available and affordable treatment.
- These results will directly influence the immediate treatment of millions of stroke sufferers globally.

Contact:

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