Increasing Participation in the Registry

The Tennessee Stroke Registry is gaining momentum as more hospitals join the registry. Historically, the state’s stroke registry has struggled with producing relevant data due to the low number of participating hospitals. The 2014 annual Tennessee Stroke Registry Report utilized the data of only six hospitals across the state. At the time, approximately 20 hospitals in Tennessee participated in American Heart Association’s Get With the Guidelines-Stroke program and were therefore eligible to participate in the registry. However, due to lack of knowledge of the registry and/or failure to complete all of the proper documentation, many hospitals inputting data into GWTG-Stroke were not being accounted for by the stroke registry. For hospitals actively reporting data to AHA’s GWTG-Stroke, the information they are already entering can be made viewable to East Tennessee State University’s College of Public Health for inclusion in the state’s stroke registry. No additional data entry and no additional fees are required for these hospitals. Completion of the Amendment to the Participating Hospital Agreement form will grant ETSU viewable access to hospital data. ETSU uses this data to generate an annual report on the status of stroke in Tennessee based on the data input by all participating hospitals. Individual hospital data is never reported by ETSU.

To request an Amendment to the Participating Hospital Agreement form or for more information about participating in the Tennessee Stroke Registry, please email Casey Morrell at strokeregistry@etsu.edu. If you need a copy of your facility’s current Hospital Participation Agreement, contact Quintiles at InfosarioOutcomeSupport@quintiles.com.

Tennessee Stroke Coordinator Survey

The Tennessee Stroke Coordinator Survey has been developed to evaluate the ways in which hospitals input data into the Tennessee stroke registry system. If you are a stroke coordinator at a hospital in Tennessee or are involved in data input into your hospital’s stroke information database and have not already completed this short, five-minute survey, please visit the following link to do so: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/tnstrokecoordinatorsurvey.

The purpose of this survey is to supply the managers of the Tennessee Stroke Registry with a better understanding of how hospitals input data into the state's stroke registry database. The information gained from survey responses will only be used for the purpose of analyzing the data and improving data collection. This information will not be published in a report. The survey is short, consisting of 9 questions and should take approximately 5 minutes to complete. Please complete this survey by September 30th. If you have any questions about the content of this survey, please email Casey Morrell at strokeregistry@etsu.edu.
AHA Issues New Guidelines for Stroke Treatment

American Heart Association issued new guidelines in July encouraging the use of a different type of stroke treatment in eligible patients. The stent retriever is a wire caged, clot-removing device that can improve outcomes after a stroke. These devices are used through a procedure called mechanical thrombectomy in which doctors thread a catheter through an artery in the groin up to the blocked artery in the brain to retrieve the clot. Utilization of the stent retriever is especially beneficial in patients with blood clots in larger arteries in which tPA does not completely dissolve them.

The FDA first approved stent retrievers as a treatment method for clot-induced, or ischemic strokes, in 2012. Since then, the procedure has primarily been performed in Comprehensive Stroke Centers and some Primary Stroke Centers that have received the specialized training required. The update in recommendation guidelines comes after the results of five studies in the New England Medical Journal found that, in concert with tPA, stent retrievers reduced disability, improved neurological function, shortened recovery time, and increased the rate at which survivors regain function.

For more information on stent retrievers, visit the following websites:
http://blog.heart.org/guidelines-urge-new-approach-to-treating-worst-strokes/
http://www.newsweek.com/stent-retriever-stroke-game-changer-369032

TSR 2014 Report Presented at TPHA Poster Session

Highlights of the findings of the 2014 Tennessee Stroke Registry Report were presented at this year’s Tennessee Public Health Association poster presentation. The TPHA conference occurred in Franklin, Tennessee on September 9, 10, and 11. The TSR Report, 2014 poster included key findings of the 2014 report: the map of certified stroke centers in the state and charts detailing the distribution of stroke diagnoses, gender distribution across various stroke types, average ages of patients by stroke type, and co-morbidities of stroke. A PDF copy of the poster will be available on the TSR website.

Contact Information

For more information about the Tennessee Stroke Registry and how to participate, contact Megan Quinn, TSR manager, or Casey Morrell, TSR graduate assistant.
Email (preferred): strokeregistry@etsu.edu or zclm74@goldmail.etsu.edu
Phone: (423) 439-4427

We look forward to working with you to improve stroke care in Tennessee.