

Full title of Research: Stroke - Immune Mediated Pathways and Cognitive Trajectory
Short title: Stroke-IMPACT study
REC Ref: 21/WA/0156 IRAS project ID: 275726

Additional information in relation to COVID-19

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, we have made some adjustments to the way in which this research study will be conducted that ensures we are adhering to the latest government advice in relation to social distancing as well as taking all reasonable precautions in terms of limiting the spread of the virus. You should carefully consider all of the information provided below before deciding if you still want to take part in this research study. If you choose not to take part, you need to inform research team. If you have any additional queries about any of the information provided, please speak with a member of the research team.

Are there any additional considerations that I need to know about before deciding whether I should take part?

When you are first approached about taking part in this study you will be an in-patient within the Stroke Service at Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust. We do not believe you will be at any increased risk from COVID-19 if you agree to participate in this trial during your stay.

As part of your ongoing participation, you will be asked to return to the hospital for follow-up visits. This may include Magnetic Resonance (MR) brain imaging, blood sampling and cognitive assessments. To minimise any potential risks, the researcher will perform a COVID-19 screen during the pre-visit telephone call. The COVID-19 screening will include a number of questions such as:

- Whether you have a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.
- Whether you are waiting for a result of a COVID-19 test, or considered a probable case or have been asked to self-isolate.

- Whether you have been in close contact with other people in the last 14 days who are probable or confirmed to have COVID-19.
- Whether you have new or worsening symptoms of acute respiratory infection

The researcher will confirm you are happy to attend follow-up, before you are offered taxi transport to and from the appointments using an approved taxi company. We ask that wherever possible, you attend the visit alone. However if you are anxious, you may bring a relative or friend with you but they will also be asked to answer the COVID-19 screening questions.

At the visit you may come into contact with other people whilst sitting in the waiting room, however the researcher will ensure that social distancing is in place before, during and after the assessment and face masks will be used at all times. The radiology staff in the MR scanning suite will follow strict guidelines in relation to cleaning of scanning equipment and we do not foresee any additional risk from any other procedure you will undertake at the visits. If you have any concerns you can discuss these with the research staff prior to your visit.

What additional steps will you take to keep me safe while I take part?

All research staff involved in the study are members of NHS staff at Salford Royal. As such, they may be subject to twice-weekly COVID-19 testing. All staff will continue to use appropriate PPE during your visit. Where possible, all equipment used during your visit will be 'single-use' wherever possible. This include pens used to complete questionnaires and equipment used to collect blood samples. The Radiology staff in the MR scanning suite will follow strict guideline in relation to disinfecting of equipment and limiting the number of patients and staff in the department.

Is there any additional information that I need to know?

You will be asked to arrive as close to your scheduled appointment time as possible to avoid waiting in communal areas. If you elect you use taxi transport (provided by us), we will ensure you are brought to the appointment on time and are not kept waiting too long for your return trip home.

Additional data use

As part of study participation, you may be asked to provide contact details to NHS Track and Trace if it becomes necessary.

What if the Government Guidance changes?

If government guidance should change prior to a scheduled visit, the researcher will contact you by telephone and update you on how this will impact you. If necessary your visit may be postponed. Alternatively you may be asked if you would be happy to conduct some of the visit by telephone or video call (if available). You are under no obligation to agree to this and if necessary, the visit will be postponed.

What if I have additional queries?

Please contact:

The Acute Research Delivery Team practitioners on:

- Telephone: 0161 206 2188 (7 days week)
- Email: acute.research@nca.nhs.uk