

SOCS Case Definition

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Study of Outcome of Childhood Stroke

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SOCS Case definition is based on the WHO definition of stroke¹ but also has the requirement of neuroimaging confirmation.

Case Definition

A child with an acute neurological deficit which is shown on brain imaging to be secondary to focal cerebral infarction or haemorrhage in an arterial or venous distribution.

- A child with an acute neurological deficit may include children with headache as the sole presenting feature of stroke.

To Include:

- Subarachnoid haemorrhage
- Cerebral venous thrombosis with evidence of parenchymal infarction or haemorrhage
- "Transient attacks" with symptoms lasting less than 24 hours
- Watershed / hypoperfusion injuries
- Metabolic stroke
- Cerebral malignancy presenting initially with acute vascular event

TRAUMA

Cases with preceding trauma are not automatically excluded. Trauma leading to arterial dissection or direct disruption of a blood vessel (e.g. penetrating head trauma) would be included.

To Exclude:

- Non-cerebral venous and arterial thrombosis
- Subdural/extradural haematoma
- Diffuse axonal injury
- Hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy
- Neonatal intraventricular haemorrhage
- Neonatal periventricular leukomalacia
- Hemiparesis after seizures (Todd's paresis)

Inclusion Criteria:

Age : >27 days and < 16 years

Date : Stroke occurs between 1st July 2008 to 30th June 2009

Location : Child resident in study area at time of stroke. Study area is the South of England (bordered on the North by the counties of Hereford, Worcester, West Midlands Metropolitan County, Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Peterborough Unitary Authority, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk). Map is available at <http://www.childstroke.org.uk/map.html>

Please contact us to discuss the inclusion of any uncertain case.

1. Aho K, Harmsen P, Hatano S, Marquardsen J, Smirnov VE, Strasser T. Cerebrovascular disease in the community: results of a WHO collaborative study. Bulletin of the World Health Organization. 1980;58(1):113-30.