

Impact Survey Report 2020

University of Liverpool Brain Infections Group

Introduction

University of Liverpool Brain Infection Group distributed a survey regarding the UK National Meningitis and Encephalitis Guidelines and University of Liverpool Neurological Infections Disease (NeuroID) Course. The respondents were both UK and Internationally (Non-UK) based. Nearly three quarters of respondents were clinicians; while nurses, medical students and researchers also responded to the survey. 34% had experience working in the UK and 66% were internationally based.

Almost 90% of clinicians reported managing a case of both Meningitis and Encephalitis at least once a year and 44% and 38% of clinicians reported seeing a case of Meningitis and Encephalitis, respectively, at least once a month.

UK Clinicians

Over two thirds of UK Clinicians responding to a Survey on the UK National Guidelines for Meningitis and Encephalitis reported they had previously referred to the guidelines within their practice, with over 40% of clinicians reporting referring to the Meningitis and Encephalitis guidelines often or being very familiar with them.

a. UK National Guidelines for Meningitis in adults

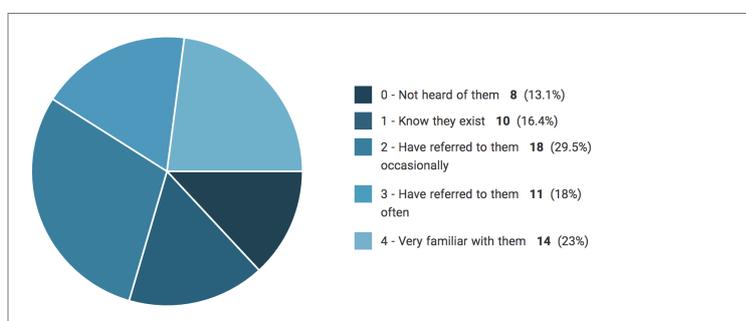


Chart 1- How familiar UK clinicians are with UK National Guidelines for Meningitis in Adults

b. UK National Guidelines for Encephalitis in adults

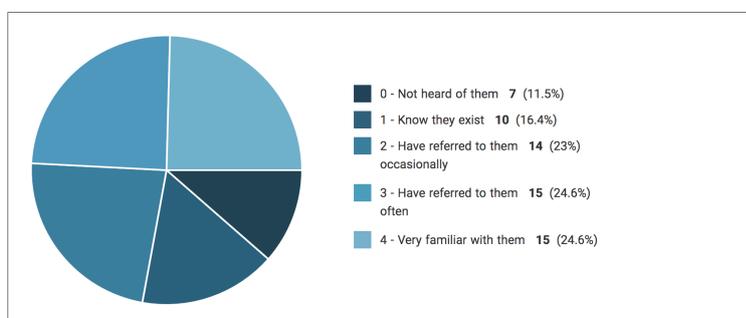


Chart 2- How familiar UK clinicians are with UK National Guidelines for Encephalitis in Adults

UK Clinicians were not as familiar with the UK National Guidelines for Encephalitis in Children, with only 27% reporting they refer to them. However, there is no data available regarding the proportion

of clinicians who work in paediatrics and so this is unlikely to be representative of UK Clinicians who work solely with children.

64% of UK clinicians who replied to this survey agreed that the UK National Guidelines for Meningitis had been helpful with their general approach to patients with suspected meningitis (Chart 3). Over 70% agreed that the UK National Guidelines for Encephalitis had made a similar impact for on their approach to patients with suspected encephalitis (Chart 4). Over two thirds of respondents felt the guidelines had resulted in overall improved outcomes in cases of both meningitis and encephalitis in the UK.

The guidelines have been helpful in guiding my general approach to patients with suspected meningitis

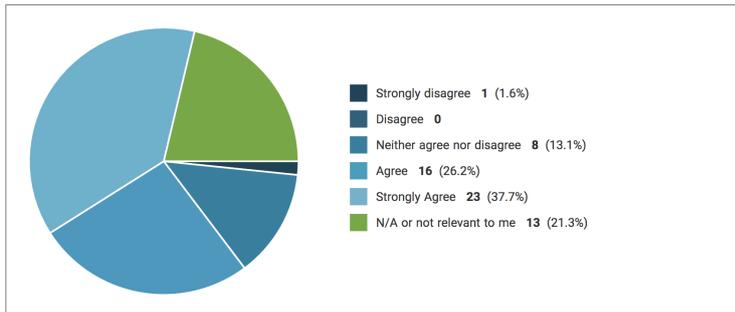


Chart 3- UK Clinicians regarding the UK National Guidelines for Meningitis

The guidelines have been helpful in guiding my general approach to patients with suspected encephalitis

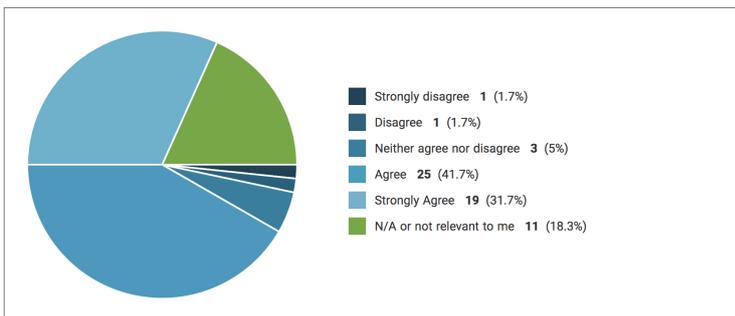


Chart 4- UK Clinicians regarding the UK National Guidelines for Encephalitis

30% of UK Clinicians within this survey did report that there were barriers to following the UK National Guidelines for Encephalitis, in comparison to 16% who reported the same in relation to the UK National Guidelines for Meningitis. Respondents did report some difficulties following the guidelines in regard to Lumbar Punctures (LP) due to issues with ensuring A&E staff did these at the earliest opportunity and challenges with performing these in agitated patients. One respondent reported trust policies can differ from the National Guidelines leading to issues with adherence. These findings, however, highlight that further research may need to be done in this area to identify further barriers in following the guidelines.

Internationally (Non-UK) based Clinicians

Over 80% of Internationally based clinicians who responded to a survey on the UK National Guidelines for Meningitis and Encephalitis reported seeing at least one case of both meningitis and encephalitis a year with 50% reporting seeing at least one case of meningitis a month and 39% seeing at least one case of encephalitis in the same time period. However, 43% of this cohort reported either having no local meningitis or encephalitis guidelines in the country they worked in or unaware of whether they did.

Over half of these clinicians reported they were familiar with the UK National Guidelines for Meningitis and Encephalitis and over 30% referred to them within their work, with one respondent noting they use the guidelines in their daily practice. 22% of Non-UK based clinicians felt the UK guidelines influenced management of brain infections in the country they worked in.

a. UK National Guidelines for Meningitis in adults

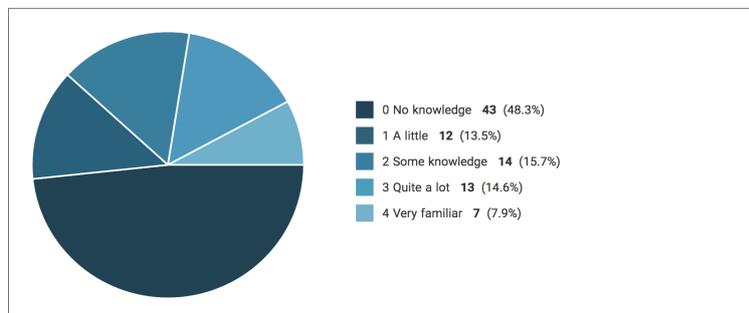


Chart 5- International Respondents regarding their familiarity on the UK National Guidelines for Meningitis

b. UK National Guidelines for Encephalitis in adults

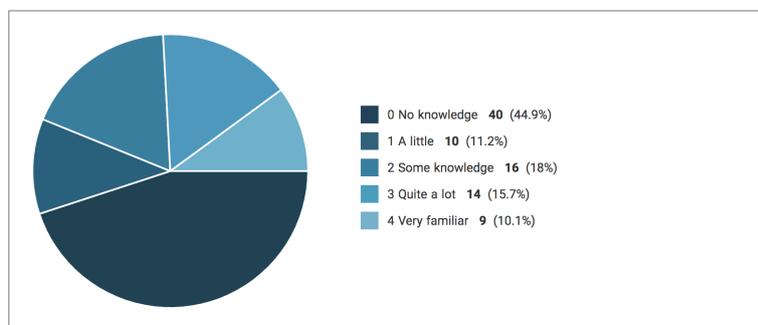


Chart 6- International Respondents regarding their familiarity on the UK National Guidelines for Encephalitis

University of Liverpool Neurological Infections Disease (NeuroID) Course

On a survey sent to previous attendees of the University of Liverpool Neurological Infections Disease (NeuroID) Course almost 90% of respondents agreed the course was very useful in increasing their knowledge and the same number agreed they learnt things on the course that have generally informed their practice. 69% of former attendees reported they had had at least one occasion where the knowledge they learnt on the course specifically helped them with a patient.

Of respondents who had used University of Liverpool NeuroID e-learning modules, 88% found them very useful to increasing their knowledge and 84% felt the modules generally informed their practice.