

Audit of Time to Treat Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (TTP) Referrals for Therapeutic Apheresis

What did we do?

Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (TTP) is an extremely rare but serious condition that requires urgent therapeutic apheresis treatment in the form of a Plasma Exchange (PEX) to minimise risk of death.

The 2012 BCSH Guidelines⁽¹⁾ recommend that PEX is commenced within 4-8 hours of diagnosis. For this audit a standard of 4 hours from time of referral to Therapeutic Apheresis Services (TAS) to first PEX was used. Delays in the treatment pathway were identified so that the causes of potential delays can be addressed.

How did we do it?

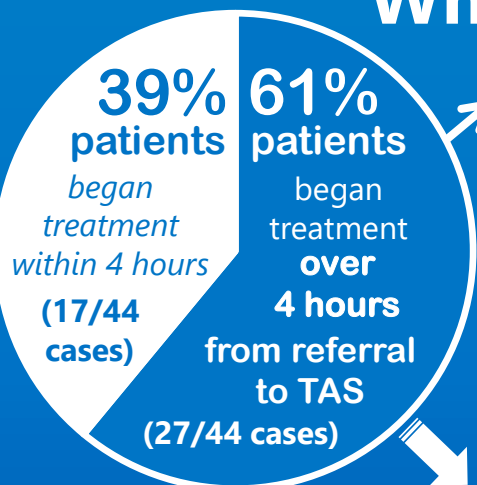


Sample size: All referrals for PEX for TTP between 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018



Method: Prospective data was collected on all urgent PEX referrals using a bespoke proforma. Delays were categorized by NHSBT/Trust delays, types of delay and lengths of delay

What did we find?



NHSBT were confirmed as causing delay in time to treat...

over 4 hours in 1/27 (4%) of these cases (a delay in PEX machine transport)

Time to Treat STATS.	
Time to treat range:	00:34 – 09:09 hrs
Median average:	04:25 hrs
Mean average:	04:48 hrs

95% (42/44) of treatments began within 8 hours

? For 5/27 (18%) cases, **multiple delays** were stated but it could not be ascertained which caused time to treat to run over 4 hours

In 21/27 (78%) cases... **Trust Delays** were confirmed as causing time to treat to run over 4 hours

Causes of delay in order of prevalence were: central line insertion, supply of Octaplas, patient transport and admission, blood sampling, staff resistance to procedure on the ward and clinicians insistence on a CT scan

What next?

- ❖ Review of **referral process** to TAS to ensure delays are minimised.
- ❖ Improve **data capture** via a TAS **database** of all NHSBT aspects of TTP treatment, to **facilitate identification** of delays and **inform improvement**.
- ❖ Develop **training and support** to encourage nurses to be more **proactive/assertive** when liaising with Trusts, to ensure potential delays are minimal.
- ❖ NHSBT to share the results of this audit to **increase awareness** of, and **reduce** the causes of **delays**.

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