

Study title: Long-term follow-up of the Asymptomatic Carotid Surgery Trial (ACST-1)

Chief Investigator: Professor Alison Halliday

Oxford C Research Ethics approved: 16/SC/0406

Confidentiality Advisory Group: 16/CAG/0122

Summary of the study:

Between 1993 and 2008 ACST-1 included 3120 patients with no recent stroke-like symptoms, who had narrowing of the carotid arteries. Half of these had an early operation to remove narrowing and half indefinite deferral so continued with normal medicines alone, only having an operation if they had stroke-like symptoms.

The results of ACST-1, showed that a successful operation to remove narrowing of the carotid artery (carotid stenosis) in patients under the age of 75 years reduces the 10-year stroke risks. However, we do not know whether it reduces the risk of dementia (a decline in memory and cognition).

Dementia is an insidious process which develops over many years. There is no published research showing that a carotid endarterectomy reduces the risk of dementia. This question is worth answering. If we demonstrate that treatments that lower the risk of stroke also lower the risk of dementia, then this will increase the benefit of these treatments. In the long-term, this may lead to a reduction in the numbers of people who develop dementia over their lifetime and in the short term it could help patients make better decisions about their treatment.

We plan to investigate this question by analysing long-term data from UK and Swedish ACST-1 participant's health records through electronic data linkage (NHS digital, UK; Socialstyrelsen, Sweden) for specific outcomes of incident stroke, death and dementia. We will also be applying to the equivalent bodies in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

What to do next?

ACST-1 participants originally consented to their medical records being accessed and do not need to take any further action if they agree to the data linkage proposed. However, if participants decide they do not want their study data to be linked in this way they can withdraw from this follow-up, without affecting their current medical care, by contacting the **Study Coordinator, Mary Sneade at the ACST trials office:**
Email: acst@nds.ox.ac.uk **or Tel:** 01865 617978 **between 9am-4pm on weekdays.**

Results:

Any publication resulting from this follow-up will not identify any individual data and will be posted on the ISRCTN clinical research studies registry at www.ISRCTN.com
The ACST-1 registration number is ISRCTN26156392