



Recruitment

Where to Prescreen for subjects

- Inpatient stroke service
- Outpatient stroke service
- Acute rehab facility
- Local stroke research database

Stroke Inpatient Service

- Screen inpatient lists every morning
- Things to look for in EMR:
 - First ever ischemic stroke (radiology reports, ask stroke attending)
 - Does the patient have good motor arm function? (Can they hold their arm out for 10 seconds with no drift?) If yes, not a good potential subject
 - Live locally with good social support ***IMPORTANT***

Stroke Outpatient Clinic

- Patients who follow up in outpatient clinic within 6 weeks of stroke
 - Typically compliant and good candidates
 - Schedule for baseline visit
- Patients who come back AFTER 6 weeks
 - Verify date of stroke is not over 6 months

Acute Rehab Facility

- Initiate communication with subject 1-2 weeks prior to discharge
- Good time to form a relationship with patient and their family/support system if possible

Local Stroke Research Database

- Subjects have already agreed to be contacted
- Look to see if database includes deficit/impairment information
- Pay close attention to date of stroke
 - Can't be over 6 months
- Avoid competition with other trials at your institution. Communicate with other research groups

Training Subjects

- Separate ICF
- Healthy controls OR stroke survivors
- Eligibility is more flexible
- If a stroke survivor is eligible to be enrolled as a study subject, please do not enroll them as a training subject

General Retention Strategies

- Make all attempts to work around the subject's schedule
- Be sensitive to needs
 - Fatigued easily
 - Frequent bathroom use
- Transportation!
 - Most cannot drive themselves, pay attention to caretaker/family needs
- Considerations for holidays or inclement weather conditions

tDCS Retention

- Let the subject know what to expect ahead of time
 - Itching and tingling expected
 - Sensation is stronger in the beginning
 - Ways to minimize discomfort (will review more details in tDCS training session)

TMS Retention

- Explain procedure prior to starting TMS
 - Explain that TMS shows us how the arm and brain are connected by inducing muscle twitch
 - Try TMS coil on the wrist first
 - More details to be discussed during TMS training sessions

MRI Retention

- Explain procedure prior and why it is necessary
 - If patient is nervous about MRI's or claustrophobic, consider staying in the room with the subject

Collaborate and Learn

- We will be beginning TRANSPORT2 Enrollment and Recruitment calls with sites (PIs and coordinators)
 - Great opportunity to share experiences with other teams
 - Every other week to start, eventually once a month
 - Detailed information will be announced in the upcoming weeks