Very Early Rehabilitation in SpEech (VERSE): Progress report.

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Background

Results of studies investigating the effects of very early and early aphasia rehabilitation are equivocal. The Cochrane Review stated there was “insufficient evidence to establish the effectiveness of one SLT approach over another” and that “we still need to establish what is the optimum approach, frequency, duration of allocation and format of SLT provision for specific patient groups.”

Aims

This poster provides a progress report on Australia’s first large scale Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT) investigating aphasia therapy intensity and type of aphasia therapy in the first months following stroke.

Methods

To date, this registered RCT has 12 confirmed sites across four states in Australia. Protocols are finalised and National Ethics approval has been granted. An electronic data entry system is in the final pilot phase before “go-live” status is reached. Three sites have completed training and are prepared for first-patient site initiation. Participant recruitment is due to commence in March 2014.

Results

This poster will present a current report on trial progress including a description of the sites involved and the number of participants recruited to the trial.

Discussion

This NHMRC funded study will address the research gaps in very early aphasia intervention, using a robust study design. This research will determine if a prescribed type and amount of aphasia therapy will enhance spontaneous communication recovery very early post-stroke recovery and will provide the first prospective cost effectiveness data for aphasia after stroke in Australia.