**Introduction**

- National guidance requires time critical neurosurgical emergency paediatric cases to be transferred without delay to a neurosurgical centre by the referring team if neurosurgery is not available on site.
  - Referring hospitals (DGHs) may feel unable to set up a local team transfer.
  - Our regional transport service has been called on to perform time critical neurosurgical emergency transports.
- Neurosurgical emergency referrals to KIDS were audited to determine who performed the transfer, time to arrival in the neurosurgical centre, and outcome.

**Methods**

- Retrospective data review of the transport database.
- Key search words used: neurology, neurosurgery and trauma.
- 144 cases identified were further filtered to exclude seizures and non-head trauma.
- 45 remaining case notes individually reviewed - 24 excluded as non-neurosurgical emergencies.
- 21 cases audited for this study.
- Telephone follow up at 24hrs and Lorenzo (PAS) used to define 24hr and 30 day mortality.

**Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transferring Team</th>
<th>No of Transfers</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Transfer Time (mean)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DGH</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>52.4%</td>
<td>135mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport Service</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
<td>278mins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There was no mortality in the DGH transfer group and one in the transport service group.

**Conclusions**

- Transport service transfers of time critical neurosurgical emergency patients take twice as long as those performed by DGH teams.
- DGH teams, who rarely have to undertake transfers of children with critical care needs, express high anxiety around their ability to perform this safely, without evidence of harm in our experience.

**KEY MESSAGE**

DGH teams transfer patients with time critical neurosurgical emergency needs faster than transport teams. This practice should continue.

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**References:**

1. Joint Statement from the Society of British Neurological Surgeons (SBNS) and the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA) Regarding the Provision of Emergency Paediatric Neurosurgical Services.
3. The acutely or critically sick or injured child in the district general hospital: A team response. DH, RCPCH, RCoA, RCN, RCS, APA and BAPS. Oct 2006. Tanner S.