Clinical effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and service users’ perceptions of early, well-resourced communication therapy following a stroke: a randomised controlled trial (the ACT NoW Study)


Record Status
This is a bibliographic record of a published health technology assessment from a member of INAHTA. No evaluation of the quality of this assessment has been made for the HTA database.

Citation

Authors’ objectives
The ACT NoW (Assessing the effectiveness of Communication Therapy in the North West) study was commissioned by the NIHR Health Technology Assessment programme and began with a feasibility study followed by a definitive study of the clinical effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and service user and carer views of an early well-resourced flexible communication intervention delivered by SL therapists, compared with an equivalent amount of contact but not therapy provided by employees badged as ‘visitors’. This aimed to examine whether there is an added benefit of early SL therapy over and above a combination of natural recovery and receiving regular empathic attention.

Authors’ conclusions
Report found that there is no evidence to support enhanced provision of early speech and language therapy for people with communication problems after stroke, and instead recommended evaluation of service reorganisation.

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