

AuSCR Research Task Group approved projects

Title	Investigation of quality of care after stroke and impact on outcomes
Principle investigator	Dr Joosup Kim
Institute	Monash University
Co-investigators	Dominique Cadilhac, Monique Kilkenny, Lachlan Dalli, Mulugeta Birhanu, Tharshanah Thayabaranathan, Muideen Olaiya. We will also invite clinical experts from the AuSCR contributing hospitals to be co-authors to assist with finalising the research questions or sub-aims, the statistical analysis plan and interpretation of the results. Other contributors will include epidemiologists from the Monash Stroke and Ageing group who co-supervise the student or members of the AuSCR Florey team may also be invited as co-authors
Submission date	28 th March 2024
AuSCR role	Data Provision
Approved	17 th May 2024
Status	In progress
Summary	Stroke is a major cause of death and disability in Australia. With several developments in the treatment of stroke over the last 20 years, there have been notable improvements in outcomes after stroke, particularly for ischaemic stroke. On behalf of the Australian Stroke Clinical Registry (AuSCR) we have previously reported trends over time in the AuSCR annual report, showing that the provision of quality acute stroke care has stagnated for several quality indicators since 2017 (Cadilhac et al, 2023). These data were also provided to the Australian Stroke Coalition to inform establishment of the National Stroke Targets initiative in 2023.

The AuSCR data are the only source of standardised national information on the quality of acute stroke care and patient outcomes (acute, and chronic between 90-180 days post-stroke). For example, in 2023, stroke leaders in each state and territory set new National Stroke Targets informed by the findings from the AuSCR data. These data can provide unique insights on variation of acute stroke care, and to inform policy and practice. Furthermore, peer review and publication of these data could provide the ability to spotlight issues on stroke care trends to support advocacy efforts.

The overarching objective is to report trends on quality of care and patient outcomes, overall and within specific subgroups. This work is expected to inform policy and practice in stroke care.

Research questions addressed:

- What are the trends in the quality of care, quality of life and survival over time?
 - What are the important factors that determine outcomes following an acute stroke?
 - To develop and validate methods to improve the reliability of comparing patient outcomes between hospitals.
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