Children’s Epilepsy Surgery Service (CESS) in England

Children’s epilepsy brain surgery referrals – a quick reference guide for paediatricians in England
Introduction
In England, around 340 children each year could benefit from epilepsy brain surgery. However, in recent years, only around 110 children each year have had this surgery.

The Children’s Epilepsy Surgery Service (CESS) is providing high quality epilepsy brain surgery for children from any part of England. Surgery will predominately be undertaken by four centres. For children aged over five surgery may be performed locally with the agreement of the relevant CESS.
Referral to a CESS Centre

Children with epilepsy should have regular reviews of their epilepsy and treatment.

Children with epilepsy in any of the following groups should be discussed with your regional paediatric neurology service, or directly with a CESS centre, for a review of their epilepsy and consideration for epilepsy brain surgery.
Referral criteria

Children with catastrophic early onset epilepsy with evidence of lateralisation to the seizure onset.

All children under 24 months old with evidence of focality to seizure onset, with or without an MRI evident lesion.

Children of any age with evident focal epilepsy, or lateralised seizures associated with congenital hemiplegia, resistant to two appropriate anti-epileptic drugs (AEDs).
Referral criteria

Children who have epilepsy associated with a lateralised abnormality seen on a brain scan.

Children with epilepsy associated with Sturge Weber syndrome, benign tumours with developmental issues and/or ongoing seizures, or Rasmussen’s syndrome.
Referral criteria

Children of any age with epilepsy associated with tuberous sclerosis resistant to two AEDs where seizures may arise from a single focus (probably from a single tuber).

Children who have ‘drop attacks’ as part of a more complex epilepsy.

Children with epilepsy associated with hypothalamic hamartoma.
Children’s Epilepsy Surgery Service (CESS)

Further information and contact details for the CESS centres, and parent and patient information
Birmingham Children’s Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Steelhouse Lane
Birmingham B4 6NH
Tel: 0121 333 9999
epilepsy.coordinator@bch.nhs.uk

North Bristol NHS Trust
Frenchay Park Road
Bristol BS16 1LE
Tel: 0117 970 1212
epilepsy.coordinator@bristol.nhs.net

Transferring to University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust during 2014.
The phone number will change to 0117 342 0185.
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust
Great Ormond Street
London WC1N 3JH
Tel: 020 7405 9200 ext 5594
epilepsy.coordinator@gosh.nhs.uk

King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Denmark Hill
London SE5 9RS
Tel: 020 3299 8305
kch-tr.EpilepsySurgery@nhs.net
Alder Hey Children’s NHS Foundation Trust
Eaton Road, West Derby
Liverpool L12 2AP
Tel: 0151 252 5163
epilepsy.coordinator@alderhey.nhs.uk

Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Hathersage Road
Manchester M13 0JH
Tel: 0161 701 2346
epilepsy.coordinator@alderhey.nhs.uk
Information for parents and children about surgery and the CESS centres

Epilepsy Action has information about what might be involved in assessment and in surgery.

This can be obtained from 0808 800 5050 or downloaded from epilepsy.org.uk/childrenssurgery
Epilepsy Action
New Anstey House Gate Way Drive,
Yeadon, Leeds LS19 7XY
Tel: 0113 210 8800
epilepsy@epilepsy.org.uk
epilepsy.org.uk

NHS England
Quarry House, Quarry Hill
Leeds LS2 7UE
Tel: 0300 311 2233
england@contactus@nhs.net
england.nhs.uk

Date: May 2013
Review date: May 2015

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Publications Gateway Reference: 00111