



**MINUTES OF THE MAGNETIC RESONANCE ADVISORY GROUP (MRAG) HELD ON THURSDAY
21ST MARCH 2013, AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY OF RADIOGRAPHERS, 207
PROVIDENCE SQUARE, LONDON SE1 2EW**

PRESENT:

Sharon Burton {SB}
Muriel Cockburn {MC} {joined by teleconference}
Sandra Conn {SC}
Carolynn Graham {LG}
Steve Harris {SH}
Jenny Jones {JJ}
Kim Mawhinney {KM}
Rachel Watt {RW}
Susan White {SW}
Gillian Winter {GW}

IN ATTENDANCE:

Valerie Asemah {VA}
Alex Lipton {AL}
Audrey Paterson {AP}

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and round table introductions were made.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Pam Black, Christine Heales and Rebecca Vosper.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18th October 2012, were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. MATTERS ARISING OTHERWISE NOT ON THE AGENDA

- 4.1 It was noted that the Safety in Magnetic Resonance Imaging document has been published and can be downloaded from the Society's document library. The Chair thanked everyone for their help in getting this document published.

5. MR SCANNING OF PATIENTS WITH POLIO

- 5.1 AL wanted feedback from the group on a query she had in regard to the scanning of polio patients.

Alex had received an enquiry from a patient with polio (incidentally the patient is also a medical journalist) who wished to discuss her varying experiences of MR units as a patient, the particular issue was relating to patient comfort some units had utilised equipment to ensure the patients are comfortable particularly the use of a mattress during spinal imaging and turning off the fan. She reported that in general her experience was that the private sector was way ahead in striving to ensure patient comfort.

The group discussed the issues and felt that there were many patients who would require some adaptation in positioning to ensure comfort (Cancer/MS patients) during particularly lengthy scans. Radiographers should communicate with the patients prior to positioning and should be able to modify positioning to ensure patient comfort.

The group did not particularly feel that guidance should be issued at this time on this matter. SH suggested drafting an article for SN to highlight the issue. AL suggested the group produce some case studies to highlight the issue.

ACTION: SH

6. FACEBOOK POSTS re POSITIONING FOR MRI L SPINES

- 6.1 It was noted that an article on positioning for MRI L spines using an upright scanner was posted earlier in the New Year on Face Book.

The matter had been discussed internally and AP made some comments regarding caution on responding to FB posts but felt that discussion within the MRAG group was appropriate and suggested that this may be an appropriate topic to establish as a research question.

The group debated the issues. RW forwarded a research paper that had been published on this matter which she forwarded to AL (to include with these minutes).

KM informed the group that she has had experience of upright scanners which are currently being de-commissioned.

7. CONSENT FOR PREGNANT PATIENTS

- 7.1 GW brought this to the group – re radiographers consenting pregnant patients. It was noted that we have advised on this matter in our updated safety publication but there still remains an issue regarding the dialogue that radiographers use with a pregnant patient. It was agreed that this is a difficult area as there is very little research regarding the effects of MRI/acoustic noise etc.

It is an issue that no organisation seems to comment on in great detail. GW has also been discussing the matter with her organisations physicist.

8. EUPAD UPDATE

- 8.1 AL gave an update to the group re the EUPAD and reported that HSE were expecting agreement to be reached by no later than June 2013 when the final text could be shared with the MR community and also dialogue would commence regarding the practical guidelines associated with the directive.

9. CONSENTING PATIENTS FOR MRI WHO ARE UNABLE TO FILL IN SCENING FORMS WITH NO NEXT OF KIN

- 9.1 JJ introduced this item in regard to a professor who did not fill in next of kin on their appointment form and she wanted some feedback. Advice from the Board of Safety Directors is that a declaration form should be filled in.

Can this group issue guidance on what is expected of a referrer – a type of Q&A article? The group felt that a quantity of non experience staff are working in the departments whilst we are getting a much older population who does not always have a next of kin so someone needs to sign on their behalf. AL stated that there is detailed guidance surrounding consent of adults with impaired capacity within the SCoR document library and the MR safety publication.

Following further discussion it was agreed that AL would take this issue to the next BIR meeting to discuss when a device has changed what are the procedures etc. KM will start looking into protocols.

ACTION: AL & KM

10. MEMBERSHIP – STEPPING DOWN ETC

- 10.1 AL updated the group again reminding them that following on from the last meeting in line with current membership of groups are reviewed every July. As this is a recently created group SCoR is looking to stagger the membership by replacing 3 members this year and 3 members next year.

It was noted that Erica Scurr has since stepped down, Steve Harris will step down in the summer and today is Sandra Conn's last meeting. CG intends to step down from October with the hope that the past president of BAMRR will take up her seat on the group. She will give name and contact details to AL.

Thanks were given by the Chair to those leaving the group for their contribution to the work of the group.

Advertisements for new members will be in our publication in a few weeks.

ACTION: ALL

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 KM will circulate information on neuro stimulators to the group.
- 11.2 A research paper regarding 'high field MRI exposure linked to radiographers' depression was brought to the attention of AL by one of her colleagues in the Professional and Education department to which AL wanted the group to comments on. The paper had been distributed to the group prior to the meeting along with the Beck Depression Inventory.
- 11.3 CG presented an x-ray image of the abdomen with radiopaque coils insitu on which she wanted comments. Has anyone seen this before? Following group discussion it appeared that no one could offer an explanation.
- 11.4 GW shared with the group an incident in which black hair dye was left in the scanner following the scanning of a patient and the scanner was unusable for the following 3 days whilst it was being cleaned.
- 11.5 KM queried whether anyone is using screening forms in different languages. Following discussion it appeared that all centres provides information in at least 3 languages, along with an advice note in a number of languages. It was agreed that this should be discussed more fully at the next MRAG meeting. It was discussed whether an organisation such as BAMRR should include examples on their website. CG felt there were many issues with doing this but would raise at one of the BAMRR PB meetings.
- 11.6 There was a query from CG in regard to the use of traditional spinal boards or is there anything new.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 12.1 AL and VA to source dates for September 2013.

ACTION: AL & VA