



Scottish  
Lipid  
Forum



ROYAL  
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EDINBURGH

# SCOTTISH LIPID FORUM & SHARP HYBRID MEETING 2021

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ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH

## SHARP PRIZE ABSTRACTS

**Title:** Improving Detection and Management of Atrial Fibrillation after Ischaemic Stroke in Glasgow (IMPROVE-AF): A Quality Improvement Project

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**Introduction:** The use of cardiac monitoring to detect AF is routine after ischaemic stroke but is often delayed leaving people with ischaemic stroke/TIA at risk from undetected atrial fibrillation (AF). We sought to improve the detection of AF by delivering early prolonged 'in-house' cardiac monitoring.

**Patients and Methods:** We collected 3 months data of people with acute stroke/TIA, but without AF, who underwent cardiac monitoring (Phase 1, pre-QIP). We then implemented a structured 'in-house' 7-day cardiac monitoring service for 12 months (Phase 2, during QIP).

**Results:** We included 244 people in Phase 1 and 172 in Phase 2. In Phase 1, 232(95%) people completed cardiac monitoring. Of these, new AF was detected in 10(4%). Median time from stroke/TIA onset to availability of monitoring report in Phase 1 was 50(IQR: 24-123) days. In Phase 2, 166(97%) people completed 7-day cardiac monitoring, with new AF detected in 17(10%). Median time from onset to availability of report in Phase 2 was 12(IQR: 9-15) days. In people with AF detected, 'in-house' monitoring reduced the time of stroke/TIA onset to anticoagulant commencement from 41(Phase 1) to 14 (Phase 2) days.

**Conclusions:** The QIP has improved AF detection, reduced delays associated with conventional cardiac monitoring and prompted early initiation of oral anticoagulation.