

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-73512-4 - Transient Ischemic Attack and Stroke: Diagnosis, Investigation and Management
Sarah T. Pendlebury, Matthew F. Giles and Peter M. Rothwell

Frontmatter

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Foreword

The provenance of this book on stroke goes back to the 1990s when Peter Rothwell joined our stroke research group in Edinburgh. It moves to Oxford where he married and works with Sarah Pendlebury, who is a geriatrician, and continues with Matthew Giles – the third author – who was a research fellow on Peter's Oxford Vascular Study (OXVASC), which he based on the earlier Oxfordshire Community Stroke Project (OCSP) which I ran in the 1980s. A 30 year cycle. During that time, the management of stroke has changed completely. We have sharpened up, we are faster, and governments, certainly in the UK, now make stroke one of their top priorities. We have stroke units staffed by stroke specialists. All people with strokes coming to hospital get CT scanned, more and more have MR scanning – not some time in the next few weeks, but within hours. Thirty years ago, we didn't know that aspirin was an effective drug for stroke secondary prevention, statins were somewhere over the horizon, blood pressure lowering long term after stroke was controversial, carotid surgery was out of control, vascular dementia was a minority interest, and there were no coils to occlude intracranial aneurysms. Everything has changed, and it is all somewhere in this book. Indeed, the authors' practice-based research has been responsible for a lot of these changes. Well perhaps not quite everything has changed; some things are much the same. Clinical skills are still needed, and clinical common sense, which is embedded in what we would now call clinical epidemiology, a rather special interest of the authors which should be obvious even to the casual reader. It is impossible to imagine what stroke medicine will look like in another 30 years, but in the meantime this is what it looks like now.

Professor Charles Warlow