

Evaluation of the use and value of prognostic modelling by clinicians in the management of patients with primary brain tumours



Supervisors:

Mr Paul Brennan, BSc (Hons) MB BChir MRCS, Clinical Lecturer in Neurosurgery, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh

Dr Kenny Baillie, BSc (Hons) MB ChB FRCA, Clinical Lecturer in Intensive Care, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Edinburgh

This project has been designed as a component of the 4th year medical student curriculum at Edinburgh medical school. The student has an opportunity to choose any interest in medicine and to spend a few weeks working on a specific project in that area.

Mr Brennan and Dr Baillie have supervised successful projects in the area of neurosurgery and intensive care examining the role that prognosis can play in influencing clinical decision making. All projects have been designed to help students to develop skills in critical literature analysis, design and conduct of a study, and statistical techniques.

In this current study we propose to examine the role that prognostic modelling plays in decision making around management of glioma. An increasing number of molecular markers are being suggested as predicting outcome in gliomas. If these are to be adapted into clinical practice in the future, it is important to know the context in which prognostic decisions are currently made. We are interested not only in the use of any existing models, but also in the processes clinicians use to determine treatment strategies. The questionnaire has been developed by the student in collaboration with the supervisors.

The student's analysis of results from the questionnaire will be accompanied by a literature review of the topic. It would be hoped that an abstract will be submitted to a future BNOS meeting and perhaps that the project is developed into a paper for peer review.

We would gratefully appreciate BNOS' assistance in distributing this questionnaire to its members. Attached is an outline of the questionnaire and we would value any feedback. The questionnaire would be distributed as a link to an online survey website.

Paul Brennan
March 2011