

Macstrak Quarterly

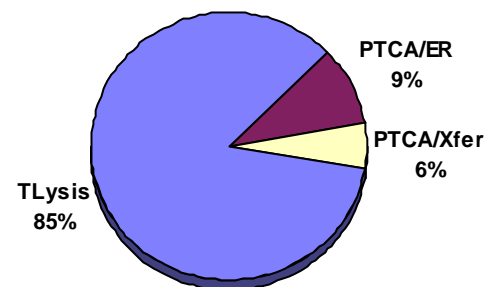
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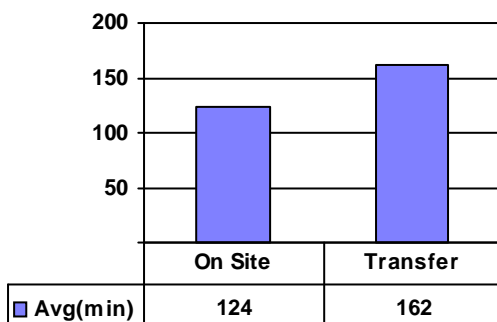
Primary PTCA

Primary PTCA is an alternative to thrombolytic therapy, and good randomised trials have shown excellent results when the procedure is performed early after symptom onset. Registry data such as Macstrak is an excellent source of data for monitoring how clinical trial data is being used in clinical practice. The figure to the right shows the relative use of thrombolysis and primary angioplasty in Macstrak with about 15% of patients under going primary angioplasty. Patients presenting to an Emergency Department with onsite angioplasty make up 9% of this total (PTCA/ER) and patients transferred to an angioplasty hospital represent 6% (PTCA/Xfer). Most patients receive thrombolysis.

Use of Primary PTCA National 01Yr



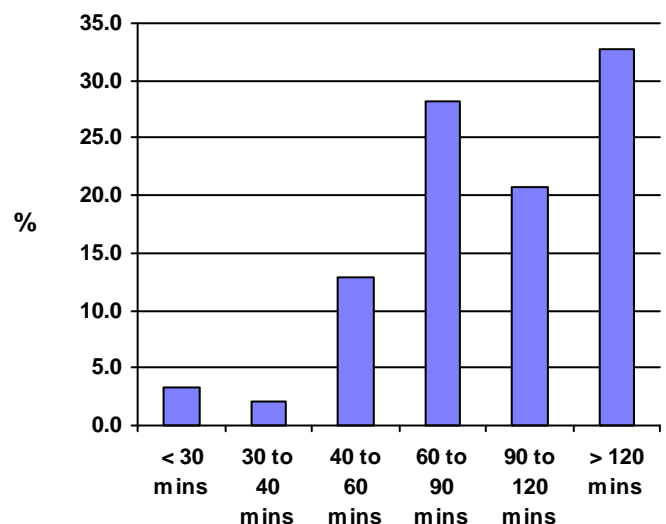
Arrival to PTCA Time (Avg) National 01Yr



As with thrombolytic therapy, time to treatment and time to patency are important determinants of treatment effect. The successful angioplasty trials have achieved very rapid angioplasty with times to treatment of 60 - 70 minutes. Although the trials confirm that it is possible to do rapid primary angioplasty, how well are we doing? The figure to the left shows the time to primary angioplasty for patients admitted to hospitals with onsite angioplasty (On Site) and for patients transferred from another hospital (Transfer). Treatment times are much longer than those tested in the randomised trials.

This third figure shows time interval data. Although some patients are receiving the early angioplasty that was tested in the randomised trials, most are not. Less than 20% of patients receive a primary angioplasty in under 60 minutes. How is your centre or the centres to which you refer patients doing? Monitoring time to treatment is an important quality assurance activity for both thrombolytic therapy and primary PTCA, and should help you both improve your care process and select appropriate therapy for your patients.

Arrival to PTCA Time National 01Yr



Graphs on Primary PTCA are included with your MacsFlirt data disk..

End of year matters

As December 31st falls on a Tuesday this year, submission dates need to be adjusted. On your Communication Forms the final week of fourth quarter should be:

Monday December 23rd to Tuesday December 31st, 2002.

The first week of first quarter 2003 should be the shortened week of:

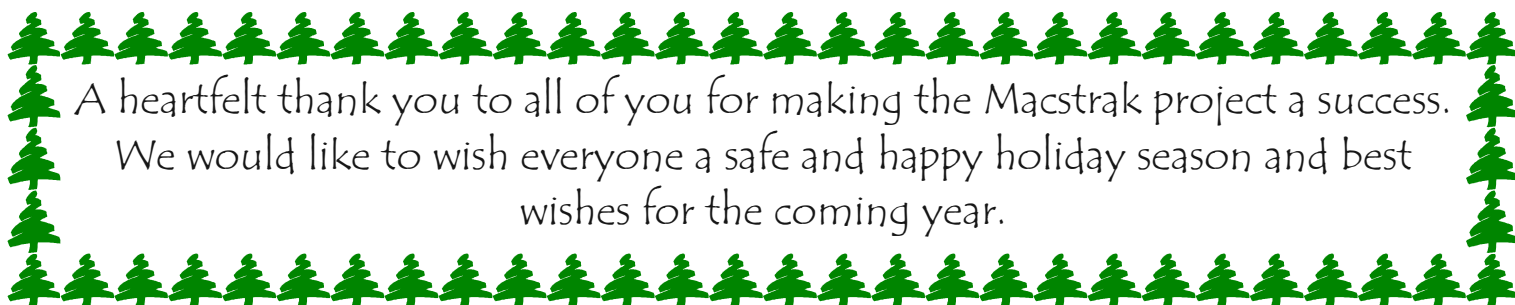
Wednesday January 1st to Sunday January 5th, 2003.

The Macstrak Project Office will be open over the holidays, but like many of you, we will be working with a limited staff. We will still be here to answer any questions or concerns that may arise during this busy season. There are, however, a few days that the office will be closed:

December 25, 26 , and 27th

January 1st

We will answer your questions as quickly as possible. As well, please let us know as early as possible if your centre will require supplies over this busy holiday season as Canada Post will likely be busier as the holiday season approaches!



A heartfelt thank you to all of you for making the Macstrak project a success. We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and best wishes for the coming year.

The Macstrak Project Office

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Important Dates

Please keep in mind the following deadlines for Fourth Quarter 2002:

December 6, 2002 Supply mailout.

January 10, 2003 All 4th quarter forms to be at Project Office.

January 31, 2003 Data Clarification deadline.

As a participant in the National Fastrak® II network of registries, the Macstrak Project is generously sponsored by Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd.