

## Re: Your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 please could you respond the questions below.

### Postural Tachycardia Syndrome PoTS

Postural tachycardia syndrome (PoTS) is a neurovascular condition characterised as an abnormal response by the autonomic nervous system to upright posture. The condition causes affected patients of all ages to experience a range of symptoms requiring extensive clinical investigations involving neurology and cardiology specialties to inform a positive diagnosis.

**Please consult with cardiology, neurology, emergency medicine, care of the elderly and paediatrics specialties to provide the information requested.**

1. How many patients are referred to your Trust annually with a suspected diagnosis of PoTS and how many diagnosed PoTS patients are under active care under specialties within the Trust?

There isn't a specific code for POTS, I don't believe it will be possible to answer this query using clinical coding

2. Is there evidence of an increase in referrals of PoTS patients since May 2020 due to patients suffering with long-Covid?

We do not hold a POTS database and therefore would not be able to accurately respond to the question relating to a recorded increase in referrals/diagnosis

3. How many patients with a suspected or confirmed diagnosis of PoTS are seen annually in the Emergency Department or admitted as an emergency?

It is very rare this would be diagnosed in A&E as it is something usually diagnosed by cardiology after numerous tests. If a patient was to present with this already diagnosed from cardiology this would be documented in the free text.

4. To which individual specialty or specialties are PoTS patients referred for investigation, diagnosis and longer-term management? e.g., cardiology, neurology, care of the elderly, paediatrics. Please specify separately for children and adults, where applicable.

Patients referred in for investigation will be seen under a general cardiology clinic

5. Within your Trust do a) adult patients and b) paediatric patients diagnosed with PoTS have access to a specialised PoTS clinic or service for treatment by dedicated clinicians with an interest/expertise in the condition? If so, please provide details of specialised adult and paediatric services in place.

We do not have a bespoke POTS clinic and therefore again, can't quantify this

6. Where dedicated PoTS services are available within your Trust, are there any restrictions in place around acceptance of new referrals or longer-term management of patients? Please specify any restrictions imposed.

We do not have a bespoke POTS clinic and therefore again, can't quantify this

Our Ref: 208  
February 2024

7. If no specialist PoTS services are in place within your Trust, do you reject referrals (back to referring GP), accept referrals under general acute services e.g., cardiology / neurology (please specify) or refer on to a known specialist service elsewhere? (please specify where).

Complex/challenging patients with POTs would be referred to alternative centre ? STH as local provider although this is not widely processed.

8. How is activity coded for adult and paediatric patients with a diagnosis of PoTS attending for a first or follow up outpatient appointment or admitted to inpatient care?

No code