

Progress Report

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Title of Project: Early identification of cerebral small vessel disease burden in obstructive sleep apnoea patients using advanced magnetic resonance imaging

Summary: (approximately 1,000 words)

The project has been considerably delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and major organization changes in the Human Research Ethics section at the South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service, where the project had been submitted for ethical consideration. These two factors led to a much slower than usual ethics approval process (usual time is approximately 2-4 months for this type of project, here it has taken nearly 12 months). Neither of these factors could have been foreseen. The lead ethics approval has recently been granted (12/10/2020), and site-specific approval applications have been prepared. We anticipate that these will be provided quickly, based on pre-submission consultations with the two sites. We are hoping to be able to start data collection for the project in the next 2-6 weeks, as soon as the site-specific approvals are given.

Despite this exceptional time, we don't plan to change the project, and we believe all the data can be collected, but we will probably require an project extension until the end of 2021.