

AN AUDIT OF INPATIENT RESOURCES USED IN ORGANIC VERSUS FUNCTIONAL NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS

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BACKGROUND:

Functional neurological symptoms (FNS) are a common cause for acute presentations to hospital. Currently there is little data on admission rates and utilisation of inpatient investigations for FNS.

OBJECTIVE:

1. Assess the incidence of FNS in patients admitted to a neuroscience centre in South West England.
2. Compare their length of stay and inpatient investigations to other neurological presentations.

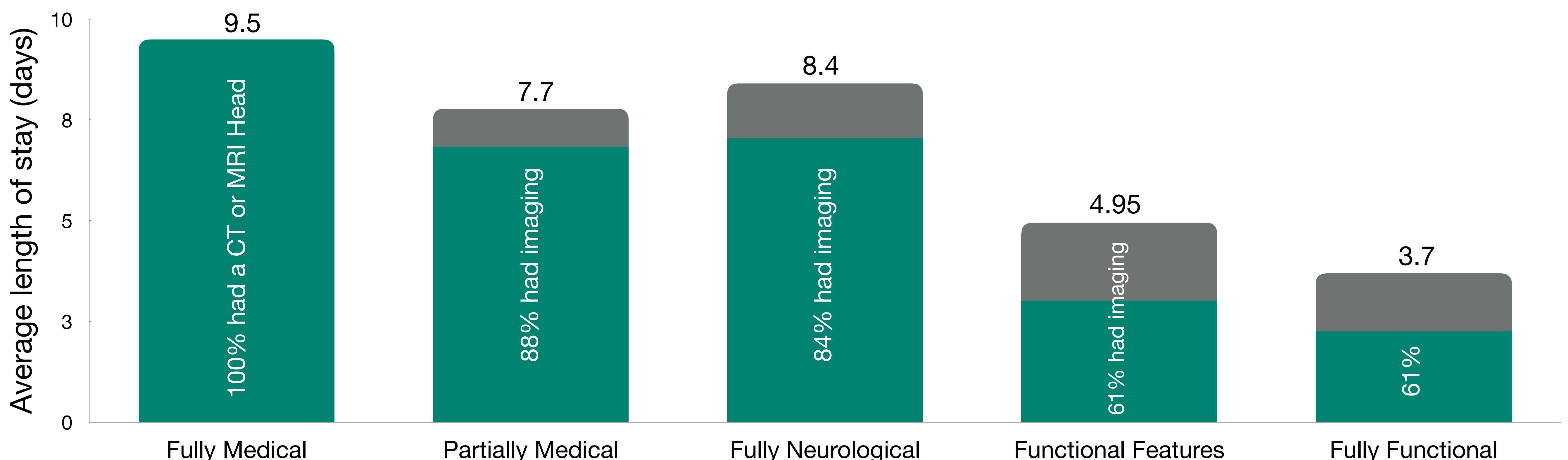
METHOD:

193 patients, seen on the acute neurology take over 43 days, were divided into groups by a neurology consultant, based on underlying cause of presentation:

1. Fully explained by organic neurological disease (140 patients in total)
2. Partially by organic neurology with functional features (23 patients)
3. Entirely functional (13 patients)
4. Partially due to other medical pathology (9 patients)
5. Fully due to other medical pathology (8 patients)

We compared:

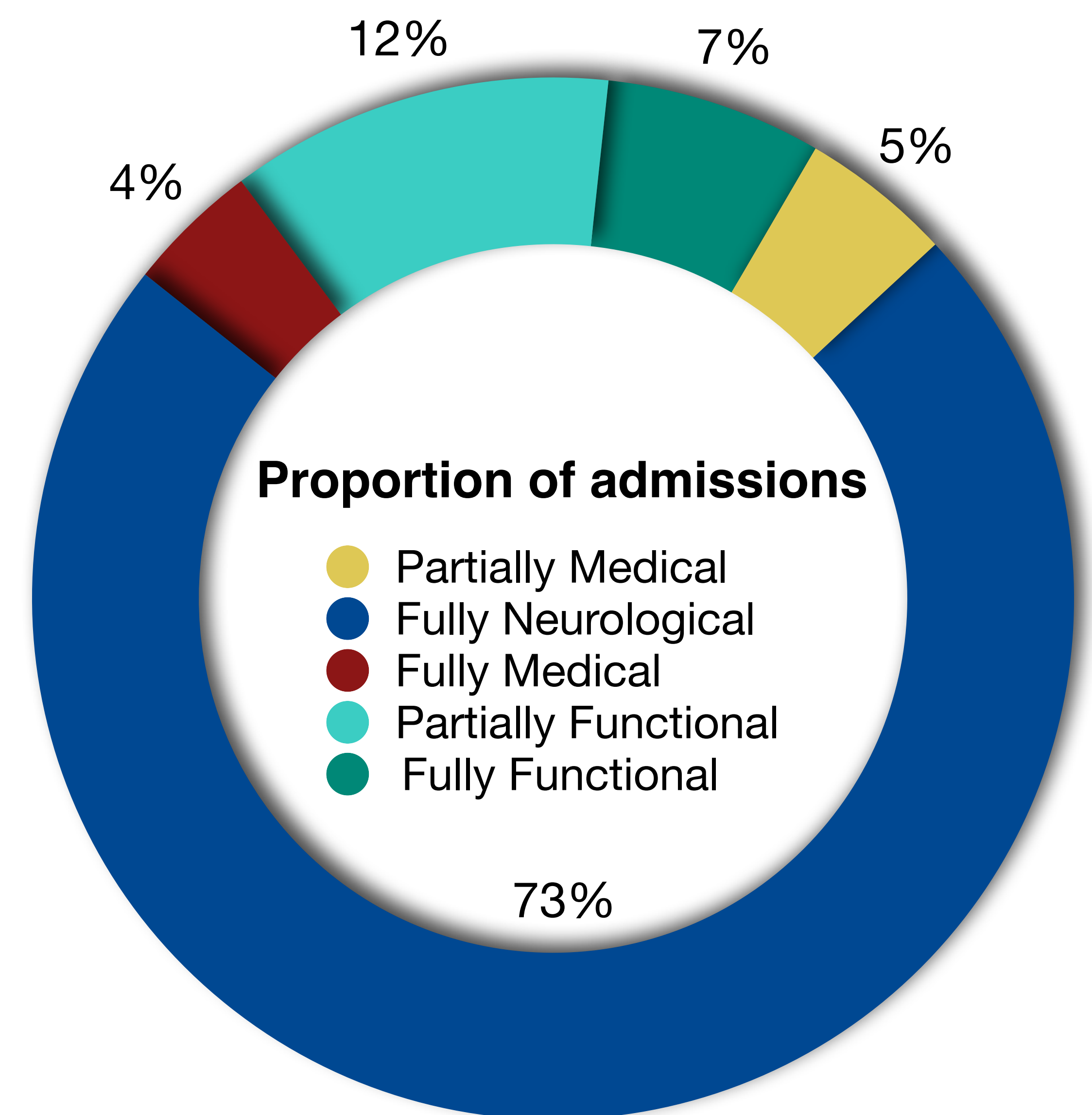
- Length of stay
- Diagnosis at discharge
- Inpatient investigations (CT, MRI head/spine, lumbar puncture, neurophysiology)



RESULTS:

Mean number of inpatient investigations:

- 1.6 for fully functional
- 1.7 for partially organic neurological with functional features
- 2.1 for organic neurological
- 1.6 for partially neurological & partially medical
- 2.0 for fully non-neurological medical presentations



CONCLUSION:

Altogether, patients presenting with functional features accounted for 18.6% of neurological admissions to a neurosciences centre. This represents a noteworthy proportion of inpatient presentations, hospital stays and inpatient investigations.