

An international survey of the current use of Electrical Stimulation for Adult Traumatic Brachial Plexus Injuries

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Key words:

Neuromusculoskeletal

Electrotherapy

Current practice



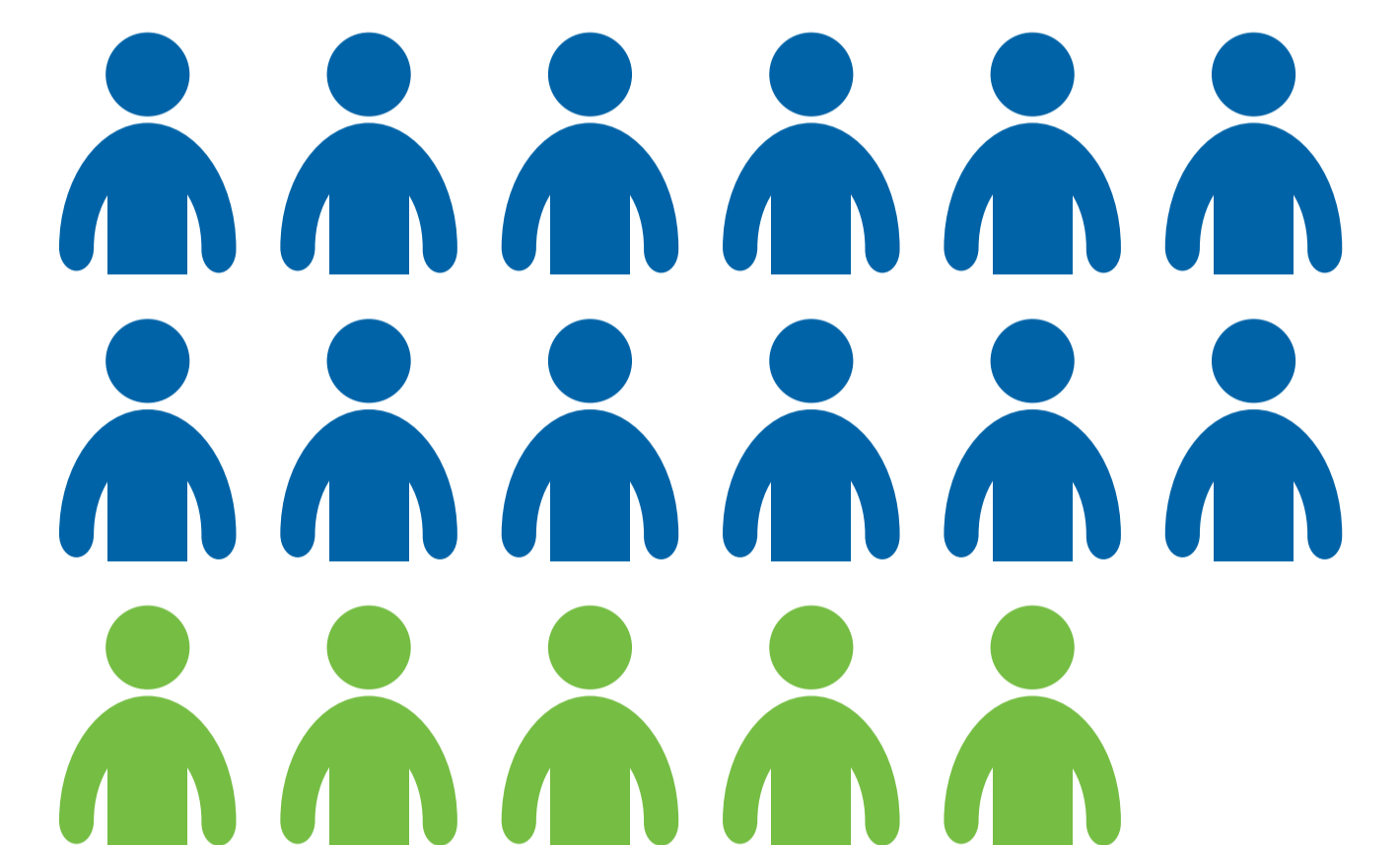
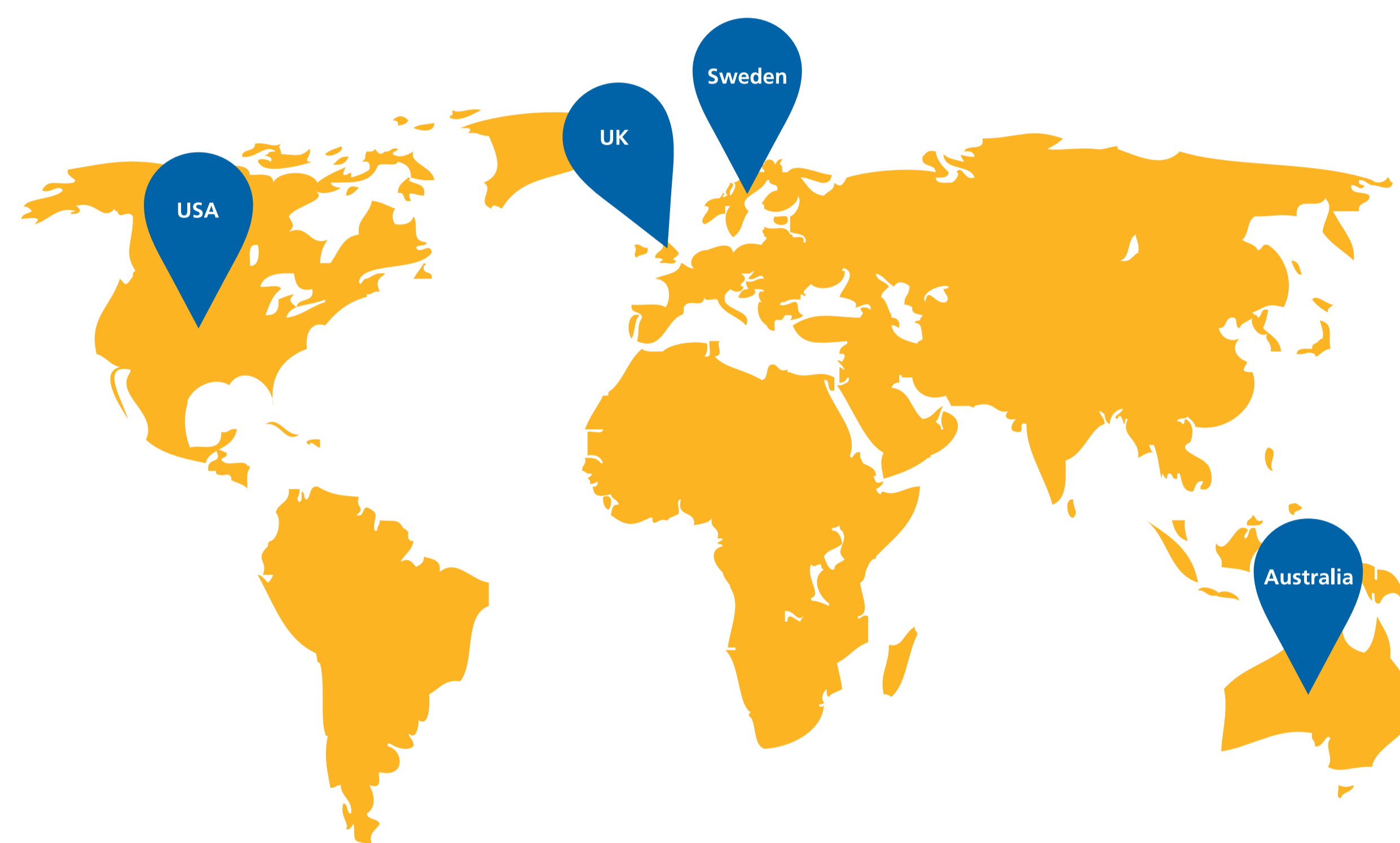
@hoopoe_swana

Background

- Electrical Stimulation (ES) of muscles following nerve injury was a frequently used adjunct for rehabilitation; recently its use has declined
- An international collaborative group of therapists with a special interest in Traumatic Brachial Plexus Injuries (TBPI) was formed in 2017
- One of the objectives of the group is to assess and improve the evidence base around treatment modalities for TBPI
- A survey of the use of ES within 'expert practitioners' was undertaken to:
 1. Explore current practice
 2. Ascertain the reasons for and against its use

Methods

- An online 'Google forms' survey was developed
- The form was disseminated to specialist clinicians in **four countries**
- Specialisation in nerve injuries ranged from 3 years up to 25 years (mode 10 years)



12 Physiotherapists and 5 Occupational Therapists consented to participate and completed the survey

Results

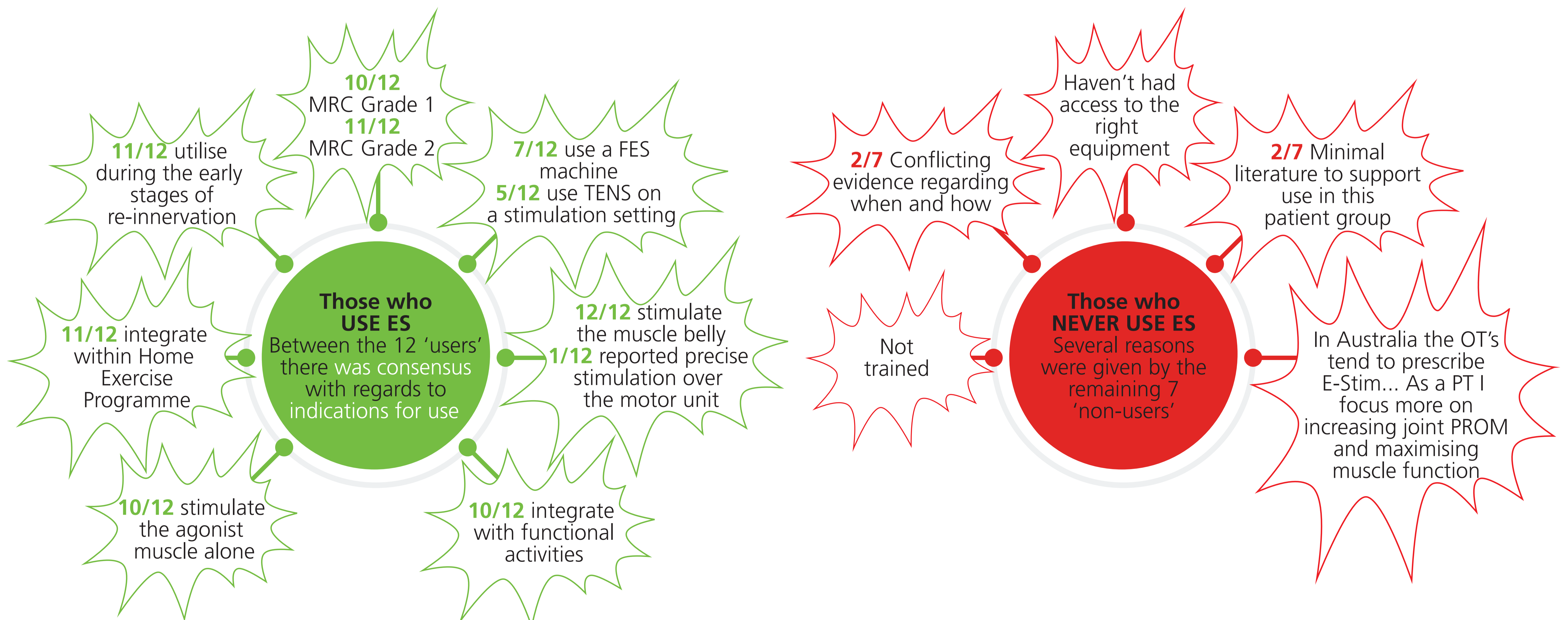
Frequency of use ranged from:

NEVER
5/17

RARELY
7/17

SOMETIMES
5/17

There were **MANY VARIATIONS** and **LITTLE CONSENSUS** with regards to **Duration** and **Frequency** of use:



Conclusions and Implications

- ES does appear to be a treatment modality that specialist clinicians are using; but not often
- The main reasons for non use included lack of training and limited supporting literature
- Poor consensus with settings may be reflective of a limited evidence base in this area
- This has been recognised by the international collaborative group of therapists specialising in TBPI and further work will be directed to address these barriers

Acknowledgements

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