The eConsultBASE™ service improves access to specialist care for patients by facilitating electronic communication between Primary Care Providers (PCPs) and specialists.

From May 2011 to January 2015, 387 eConsults were submitted to neurology specialists.

### Content of questions asked by PCPs

- **Other** 43%
- **Headache** 17%
- **Incidental imaging finding** 11%
- **Numbness/tingling** 11%
- **Seizure** 9%
- **Cerebrovascular disease** 9%

In the other category, topics included: movement disorder/tremor, visual disturbance, vertigo/dizziness, syncope/loss of consciousness, weakness, facial pain/trigeminal neuralgia, and neoplasm.

- **51% Diagnosis**
  - Choice of test
  - Imaging and symptom interpretation
- **23% Drug Treatment**
  - Drug choice
  - Adverse effects from medications
  - Prescribing instructions
- **17% Management**
  - General management
  - Need for referral

- **54%** of eConsults provided information and advice on a new course of action.
- In **38%** of cases, the planned treatment plan was validated.
- **89%** of PCPs rated the eConsult service as excellent or very good.

### Case Example

PCP tells the specialist about an epileptic male patient who has been on valproic acid for years with no seizures. PCP is concerned about his consistently high valproic acid levels but is unsure about adjusting medications. PCP asks for recommendations regarding valproic acid level.

- **Day 1**
  - Specialist recommends PCP does not worry about levels unless there is concern about adherence, toxicity, or breakthrough seizures or a new drug is introduced.
  - Specialist provides information on drug interactions.
- **Day 1**
  - PCP accepts advice and closes the case commenting, “very helpful and timely. thank you.”

- **88%** of cases took specialists 10 minutes or less to complete.
- **80%** of cases were answered within 1 day.
- **50%** of intended face-to-face consultations were avoided with eConsult.


http://cp.neurology.org/content/8/3/186