

PAEDIATRIC SURGERY COLLABORATIVE CLINICAL RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Autumn 2021

Welcome to the second edition of the Paediatric Surgery Collaborative Research Newsletter. In what feels like a very busy time within the NHS and academia as we try to recover from the past 18 months, it is encouraging to know that there is a lot of research activity going on and I would encourage you **ALL please to engage** with as much as you can. If you individually are unable to lead a project at your centre, please do reach out to a colleague or trainee who can. We can provide external training and support!

Detailed below are the studies currently running or opening soon to recruitment and planned for the near future. If you or your team would like to take part in any of them or would like further information then please reach out to the Chief Investigator who's contact details are provided.

In addition a team are putting together a proposal in response to a commissioned call from the NIHR looking at when is best to repair an incarcerated inguinal hernia that has been successfully reduced. **The team are looking for potential units to get involved but before that also looking to understand which practices are currently followed at**

centres around the UK. You can help by completing a brief (literally 3 minute) survey [here](#).

As always we should constantly be on the look-out for new research ideas to develop and support. Therefore I would like to invite anyone who has a proposal for a multicentre research study to please let me know so that we can begin a discussion. In particular a study that helps understand a clinical problem in more detail or helps to identify / define future areas for research would be welcomed.

Next year I would like to restart face-to-face meetings of the Clinical Studies Group. These were successful before and I think we should aim to meet again in the Spring. **A meeting of the Clinical Studies Group will be held on Wednesday 16th March.** It will likely be in London and as before I hope to be able to cover travel expenses. Please mark this date in your diary and do your very best to attend. Further details to follow.....

Very best wishes

Nigel Hall

n.j.hall@soton.ac.uk



Timing of Stoma Closure in Neonates

This feasibility study aims to find out if it is possible to design a trial comparing early and late stoma closure in babies. We started with a survey – thank you to everyone who took part. Findings have influenced the current stage of the study - a prospective observational cohort study taking place in 7 UK centres. We are capturing data about babies with a stoma and asking parents and clinicians for their views on a clinical trial for their baby, should one have been running now. We are also running some focus groups with clinicians to understand attitudes in more details as well as analysing data from several national data sources to understand more about numbers of babies with a stoma and current practice. We will circulate results once they are available including an assessment of whether a future trial is likely to be feasible. If a trial is feasible, we will ask for all centres to participate!

Chief Investigator Contact:

Nick Lansdale: nick.lansdale2@mft.nhs.uk

Twitter [@ToSciN2](https://twitter.com/ToSciN2)

Web: www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/toscinn



Treating Oesophageal Atresia to Prevent Stricture

Does routine use of antacid medication reduce the incidence or severity of anastomotic stricture following oesophageal atresia repair?

This multicentre RCT aims to find out. The study team have now completed the feasibility stage of this project that confirms there is adequate interest and equipoise amongst parents and clinicians to proceed to a full multicentre RCT. **Thank you to all of you who completed the feasibility survey** – it is hugely appreciated and a really important part of this piece of work. The RCT is planned to start Spring 2022. It is hoped that all major UK units will participate. Please make contact for more details!

Chief Investigator contacts:

Iain Yardley iain.yardley@gstt.nhs.uk

Nigel Hall n.j.hall@soton.ac.uk



Conservative Treatment of Appendicitis in Children – a randomised controlled Trial

How do outcomes of non-operative treatment compare with surgery for children with uncomplicated acute appendicitis?

Following on from the successful feasibility trial in 2018, CONTRACT-2 will be opening to recruitment this winter. Currently 12 centres have agreed to participate, and the trial is open to up to 15. If your centre has not yet agreed to participate please get in touch so I can provide more details.

Chief Investigator contact: Nigel Hall n.j.hall@soton.ac.uk
Twitter: [@CONTRACT_study](https://twitter.com/CONTRACT_study)



Children's Surgery Outcome Reporting

The **Children's Surgery Outcome Reporting (CSOR)** project is a 5-year NIHR funded project, that aims to find out if it is possible to design a multi-centre data collection and reporting system which provides units with information about their practice and outcomes alongside the national picture but without placing a reporting burden on surgeons. The hope is that by collecting and providing these data, sharing of good practice can be facilitated, and outcomes can be improved. Initially, the programme is running in 8 pilot sites chosen to provide diversity in location, size, organisation of services and EPR systems used. If the project is successful, and feedback from pilot sites positive, there is potential to expand the

project nationally after the 5 years. At this stage the project is looking for surgeons to help in the defining of a generic outcome measure that will be used in the project. The measure will be used to determine if the treatment of a condition has been successful. **It is really important that as many surgeons as possible take part** in this piece of work so that we can be certain that surgeons' views are incorporated into the measure. To find out more and to take part please [click here](#).

Research Fellow: Ben Allin; Chief Investigator: Marian Knight Email: csor@npeu.ox.ac.uk



The ICLMR launched January this year and welcomes all UK centres. The registry aims simply to collect data on all cases of children with a congenital lung malformation (e.g. CPAM, sequestration, bronchogenic cyst, lobar emphysema etc) whether they are diagnosed before or after birth. There is no requirement to treat them in any particular way, just to collect high quality prospective data that can be used for research in the future. UK ethical approval is already in place to allow all centres to participate so please sign up now! iclmr@soton.ac.uk

Chief Investigator contact:

Mike Stanton: michael.stanton@uhs.nhs.uk

Twitter: [@ICLMRstudy](https://twitter.com/ICLMRstudy) Website: www.iclmr.org



Magnet Ingestion in Children:

A prospective surveillance study

Paediatric ED doctors we will be undertaking a year long surveillance study of children with magnet ingestion. This aims to describe the patient journey, investigations performed and document injuries sustained, treatment required and outcome. It will help us to understand the scale of the problem (to provide to policy makers), understand the role of different types of imaging, and provide data to optimise current treatment guidelines. We aim to include all specialist centres and through the PERUKI network a great many (approx. 80) DGH's. To register your interest please get in touch: Nigel Hall n.j.hall@soton.ac.uk

Jonny Neville: Jonathan.neville@nhs.net

COMING SOON!!! A nationwide prospective surveillance study of magnet ingestion.

In conjunction with the PERUKI network of

TRAINEE CORNER

The trainee research network is a key part of the UK multicentre collaborative research effort. Current studies are detailed here – please make contact and get involved!

The DEFECT study is now collecting data! A multi-centre international prospective service evaluation of the management and 1-year outcomes of children with CDH with a focus on recurrence. thedefectstudy@gmail.com



National Survey of Practice for Emergency Testicular Fixation



Paediatric Surgery Trainee Research Network



British Urology Researchers in Surgical Training

This national survey of consultants and registrars about decision making and practice during paediatric and adult emergency scrotal exploration is still open but closing soon. Please complete the survey!

Contact: tristanboam@doctors.org.uk

The Blunt Liver And Spleen Trauma (BLAST) Audit

Data collection has been completed – analysis is underway!

Magnet and bAttery inGestion: a rEtrospective sTudy

This study has been completed and a manuscript submitted for publication. Thanks to all for participating!

Post-appendectomy collections in children

Coming soon: national cohort study - more information to follow! Contact g.bough@nhs.net to register your interest.

Web: www.pstrnuk.org Email: contact@pstrnuk.org



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