

Collaborative research meeting

Paediatric Surgery Nov 2023

MINUTES

1. Update on completed projects
2. Update on current projects
3. Update on projects starting soon
4. Update on projects in development
5. Update from trainee research network
6. A couple of other announcements
7. Leadership of this group
8. Next meeting



Nick Lansdale

- Study completed, BAPS presentation done, NIHR report done
- Several papers in writing stage

- Outcome was that a trial would likely be feasible but there may well be some challenges. May not be high priority for NIHR.

- Waiting to see if a commissioned call will be forthcoming.



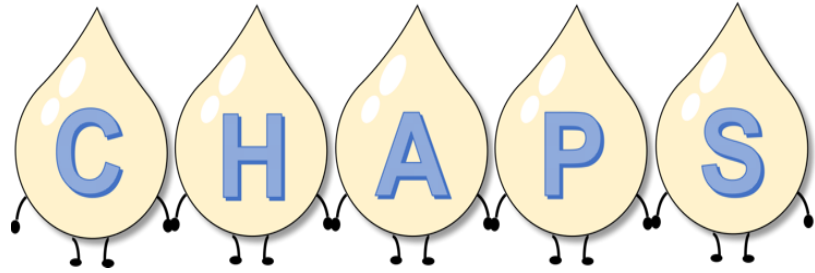
Jonathan Neville

Magnet Ingestion in Children:

A prospective surveillance study

- Total of 330 cases reported
- Morbidity approx. 20%
- 10 -15% had some form of surgical intervention

- Currently progressing analysis to report on:
 - Epidemiology and at risk groups
 - Inform national policy (via trading standards)
 - Update existing guidelines (via RCEM)
- Thank you to all sites who contributed data



Harriet Corbett

- Observational study looking at boys with BXO to determine if post-intervention clinical course can be predicted by appearance at time of surgery and/or histology
- Secondary objective to validate a clinical scoring system for severity of BXO
- Recruitment now finished – 94 out of target of 100 achieved
- Analysis in process
- Hoping to lead onto further work depending on findings

CONTRACT

Nigel Hall

- RCT of appendicectomy vs non-operative management of simple appendicitis
- 16 centres open – 1 more to follow soon
- >110 recruited (nearly 1/3 of sample size)
- Lots of interest from parents, although recruitment challenging
- Lots of opportunity for clinicians to get involved, many have already recruited
- Recruitment window will be extended – discussion with funder ongoing

TOAST

Iain Yardley

Treating Oesophageal Atresia to Prevent Stricture

- RCT to evaluate effectiveness of routine PPI at preventing anastomotic stricture in babies following OA repair.
- Lots of feasibility work done
- Trial has been designed
- Many centres keen to be involved.
- Currently not possible to obtain drug in form that is acceptable to MHRA to use in a clinical trial
- Very frustrating – please bear with us!

TAT for DA: why not?

Nigel Hall

- Survey of surgeons, neonatologists, dieticians, specialist nurses
- Why do / don't clinicians use a TAT and try to avoid CVC and PN?
- What is required to change practice?
- Open to all please complete survey and encourage colleagues to do so!

<https://www.isurvey.soton.ac.uk/43228>





Benjamin Allin

- Large project that aims to identify variation in care between centres, feedback to centres and allow for local changes to support improvement in outcomes, all using routinely collected data.
- Data will start to flow from first centre into central database in Nov'23
- Feedback process currently being finalised
- System for capturing data from EPIC should not be a problem.
- More work required for non-EPIC centres.
- If not already involved and interested please contact Ben



INTERNATIONAL
CONGENITAL LUNG MALFORMATION
REGISTRY

Michael Stanton

Nigel Hall

- Observational study of cases of congenital lung malformation (CPAM, sequestration, CLE, bronchogenic cyst etc)
- Data captured across lifecourse from prenatal diagnosis onwards
- Simply collecting data to allow research questions to be answered in the future –no requirement to change current management
- Open to all centres – ethical approval in place etc
- 8 UK centres currently recruiting – would be great to have more!

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Surgery in the 22-23 weeker project

- Aim to document challenges of surgery in babies having surgery at <24 wk gestation
- Plan for a multicentre retrospective review of babies having surgery between Jan 2020 and Jun 2023
- Focus on surgical challenges, high level outcomes also being collected.
- Ready to start data collection, plan to complete in time for a BAPS abstract
- Local sites need to identify babies and then there is a CRF to be completed – 1 per baby. Mix of quali / quant data. May be opportunity for more detailed qualitative work depending on numbers and interest.
- Please contact Ian Jones

NECQual

- Aims: understand surgical decision making in NEC in detail and in ‘real time’
- Start Jan 1st 2024 – open to all, will close Oct 2024
- Will involve identification of babies with NEC at the time of review by a surgeon. Study coordinator will be notified. There will be a (daily) short telephone interview to delve into the reasons for decisions made in more detail.
- Subsequent outcomes will be retrieved for each baby from the NNRD
- Actions:
 - Register with local R&D
 - Agree local process for notification – i.e. letting George know when the surgical team have assessed a baby with suspected NEC no matter what the outcome of that assessment

Contact: George Bethell

Fluorescence guided surgery survey

- Survey to understand current practice and experience of using fluorescence guided surgery in any context in children in the UK
- Who is doing what?
- What is current experience?
- What is it good for? Etc....

- Survey ready to launch, looking for 1 response per centre from a centre representative
- Will be circulated soon

Stefano Guiliani

Inguinal Hernia Core Outcome Set

- Aim: Define core outcomes for children undergoing inguinal hernia repair
- Being led by a Dutch group. Clare Skerritt is UK co-ordinator.
- Open to all who wish to take part – please self register:
- <https://delphimanager.liv.ac.uk/COS-InguinalHernia/Delphi>
- May also be opportunity to ask parents if they would like to contribute their thoughts – pls contact Clare for more detail of that

Contact: Clare Skerritt

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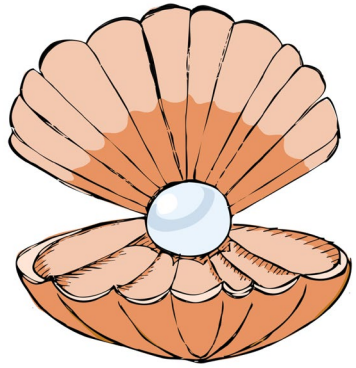
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SURGiCAL PEARL

- Aim to create a large ‘biobank’ of data and blood and urine from parents and index case to enable future research
- 5yr follow-up via parental questionnaires and NHSE data
- Ethically approved, aiming for >2500 cases
- Up and running in Bristol (127 babies; >90% recruitment)
- Initial research questions are in place
- Working well in Bristol, next stage is to go multicentre
- NIHR portfolio study – so should be accessible to all centres depending on local support available – research nurses, fellows etc
- In future there is a hope that there will be funding to support this activity
- Would like to get more centres involved
- Would benefit from wider input to help with steering group, refining data collection forms and processes

Contact: Clare Skerritt

The impalpable testis

Milan Gopal

- Several groups have been having discussions about possibility of a trial that compares outcomes between different procedures
 - 2 stage FS
 - 1 stage FS (gubernaculum sparing)
 - Shehata
 - Laparoscopic orchidopexy
- There is limited comparative data available for these.
- Do we know what standard practice is across the UK?
- Agreed worth further discussion to develop ideas and see if a study can be designed. Please contact Milan if interested.

UK National Paediatric Gastrostomy Study

- Currently being developed – plan as an observational cohort study to explore outcomes associated with different insertion techniques
- Main comparison likely to be push vs pull
- Major and minor complications to be reported
- Follow-up period needs to be determined to capture these

- Plan is to finalise plans and then apply for funding.
- Anticipated that all UK centres will be keen to be involved
- Keen to help study development? Pls contact Iain or David

Iain Yardley

David Wilkinson

ICG in NEC – a trial?

- ICG may help determine margin of ischaemia during resection for NEC
- Initial proposal is for a trial to see if ICG reduces extent of resection, has impact on duration of PN
- Discussion around alternate study designs that may be favoured including some preparatory (pilot or feasibility work)
 - Understand how it can be used
 - Understand impact of using it on extent of bowel resected
 - Understand impact of using it on other outcomes
 - Would need to explore benefits AND harms

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Trainee research update (PSTRN)

- There is good and widespread engagement from trainees including many new members
- Have developed a vice-president role
- Some recent publications were shared
- There are 4 studies currently being delivered
 - Defect study – in follow-up stage
 - OPERA study – retrospective
 - PAC (Post appendicectomy collections) – data collection complete
 - VACPA (Vascular Access in Complicated Paediatric Appendicitis) most centres taking part

PSTRN update – studies in development

- These relate to
 - Advice given to children about return to school
 - Management and outcomes of UDT in teenagers

 - Testicular rupture outcomes
 - A neonatal surgical project – to be delivered in conjunction with neonatal trainee research network

- Please support them if you can by encouraging activity in your centre, providing advice and support, encouraging others to get involved

- Trainees can contact George Bethell for more info

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Leadership of this group / Next meeting

- NH had been doing the role for nearly 6 years.
- Time for a change of leadership
- Hop is that BAPS will be in a position to advertise the role in Spring 2024
- Anyone interested is:
 - Encouraged to apply
 - Welcome to contact NH for more info about what it involves
- Next meeting: **Weds 13th March 2024**