



Joint SBNS / BNTRC Academic Newsletter

December 2016

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Welcome

A warm welcome to the first joint academic newsletter from the Society of British Neurological Surgeons (SBNS) Academic Committee and the British Neurosurgical Trainee Research Collaborative (BNTRC). We hope to provide updates on all the exciting neurosurgical research happening in the British neurosurgical community.

We'd like to make a special mention about the upcoming SBNS Research Day, to be held at the Royal College of Surgeons of London on 10th February 2017. It promises to be an exciting day, showcasing UK neurosurgical research, present and future. We have secured representation from major funding bodies including the MRC and NIHR. To secure a place you must register on line by visiting www.etouches.com/sbnsresearchday as places are limited.

If you have any questions or queries about this newsletter or would like your trial to be included, please contact Carole Turner, SBNS Research Manager (clt29@medschl.cam.ac.uk) or Aswin Chari, BNTRC Chair (aswinchari@gmail.com).

News

Academic Neurosurgical 'League Tables'

In May, we collated a list of all neurosurgical centres and their recruitment to large multicentre trials. Encouragingly, 85% of all units are engaged to some degree and 17 centres are involved in 2 or more trials. Congratulations to Southampton who was the top recruiter and to James Cook who is the only centre to have recruited into all 4 trials!

New BNTRC Studies

The BNTRC had an autumn call for projects and we were glad to receive 8 high-quality proposals. Following a thorough review process, we have chosen a number of new projects to support – please see below for details!

First BNTRC Study Published in the Journal of Neurosurgery



The first BNTRC study, the national chronic subdural haematoma audit has been published in the Journal of Neurosurgery. Congratulations to all the study leads and collaborators.

This is hopefully the first of many for the BNTRC and we look forward to the continued enthusiasm from trainees and consultants!

National Research Collaborative Meeting



The BNTRC co-hosted the National Research Collaborative Meeting at the RCS, London on 30th November. The day was designed to be an educational and networking opportunity for trainees nationally who are involved in collaborative research. Highlights included a 'Viper's Nest' session of new research ideas and a keynote lecture from our very own Professor Peter Hutchinson!

Opening of Cambridge Laboratories



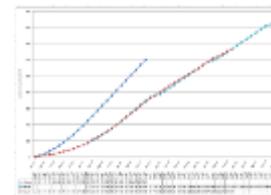
A new suite of laboratories was officially opened on 11th November at the Addenbrooke's site, University of Cambridge. The John Pickard Neurosurgical Laboratories are named after John Pickard, Professor Emeritus of Neurosurgery, Cambridge's first Professor of Neurosurgery.

Trial Updates

BASICS: *British Antibiotic and Silver Impregnated Catheters for Ventriculoperitoneal Shunts* (www.basicsstudy.org.uk)

- Participating sites: 17
- Patients recruited: 1353

Granted a 12-month extension due to lower than expected event rate and impressive recruitment rate. Targeting to recruit 1600 patients by August 2017



NERVES: *Nerve root block vs surgery for sciatica secondary to a prolapsed lumbar disc* (www.nervestrial.org.uk)

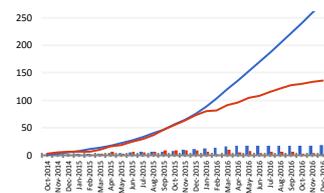
- Participating sites: 11
- Patients recruited: 90

Recruitment period has been extended to allow for a change in inclusion criteria - please keep recruiting! For more information, please contact Carolyn Hopkins (nerves.trial@liverpool.ac.uk)

RESCUE-ASDH: *Rescue for Acute Subdural Haematoma* (www.rescue-asdh.org)

- Participating sites: 21 in the UK, 2 in the USA
- Patients recruited: 136 randomised, 161 recruited to observational arm

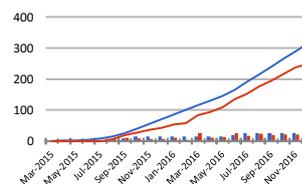
The HTA have approved the trial to continue to the substantive stage. Further international sites are due to open soon, but we need to keep up UK recruitment numbers – please keep up the strong support, particularly to the randomised arm! For more information, please contact Hadie Adams (ha@rescueasdh.org) or Angelos Koliass (angeloskoliass@gmail.com).



Dex-CSDH: *Dexamethasone in Chronic Subdural Haematoma trial* (www.dex-csdh.org)

- Participating sites: 16
- Patients recruited 242

Having recruited almost 1/3 of the overall target, the HTA have also given approval for the trial to continue to the substantive phase. Special mention to Southampton who have recruited extremely well! Please continue looking for eligible CSDH patients. For more information, please contact Ellie Edlmann (eedlmann@nhs.net).



ROAM: *Radiation vs Observation following surgical resection of Atypical Meningioma:* (www.roam-trial.org.uk)

The ROAM trial opened in Liverpool in April 2016 and is now open in 5 sites, with more planned in the near future. For more information, please contact Priya Francis (roam.trial@liverpool.ac.uk).

MISTIE III: *Minimally invasive surgery plus rt-PA for spontaneous intracerebral hemorrhage evacuation*

MISTIE III now has 4 active centres in the UK and we hope that UK recruitment will double before the end of the trial.

TOPSAT2: *Treatment of poor grade subarachnoid haemorrhage trial* (www.topsat2.co.uk)

TOPSAT2 was launched at the SBNS meeting in Stoke and is now open to recruitment in two centres. Other centres are to be opened soon – if you are interested in setting up your unit, please contact the TOPSAT2 team (topsats2@newcastle.ac.uk).

BNTRC National Projects



National EVD Audit: The national EVD audit has completed data analysis and the draft manuscript is under preparation. It will be distributed to collaborators in early 2017. For more information, please contact Aimun Jamjoom (aabjamjoom@gmail.com) or Aminul Ahmed (aminul.ahmed@gmail.com).

RED-GB Audit: The Residual Enhancing Disease in Glioblastoma audit has completed data collection and data analysis and manuscript preparation are in progress. Look out for a draft manuscript soon! For more information, please contact Ruichong Ma (ruichong.ma@gmail.com).

Long-term GBM Study: We expect to have the patient dataset for the long-term GBM survivor study by the end of January and trainees should receive a list of 15-20 patients to gather local data for. If you've moved units or would like to register interest, please contact Paul Brennan (paul.brennan@ed.ac.uk).

SBNS & BNTRC Studies in Set-up

PRaM-GBM Study: This multicentre imaging study aims to predict where glioblastomas will recur. We hope to open in 10 centres & recruit a total of 120 patients over 3 years. Ethical approval has been granted and we are aiming to launch in January. If you wish further information or to register interest please contact Stephen Price (sjp58@cam.ac.uk)

National Cauda Equina Study: The BNTRC is in the process of setting up a prospective national audit of management of cauda equine syndrome. The study is in the design phase and we will be in touch soon to recruit collaborators from each unit. For more information, please contact Aimun Jamjoom (aabjamjoom@gmail.com) or Ingrid Hoeritzauer (Ingrid.hoeritzauer@ed.ac.uk).

Management of Metastases: The BNTRC is in the process of setting up a prospective study looking at the referral and managements of metastatic brain tumours, with the vision of influencing upcoming NICE guidelines and funding streams. The study is in the design phase and we will be in touch soon to recruit collaborators from each unit. For more information, please contact Jignesh Tailor (jktailor@gmail.com) or Francesco Vergani (francesco.vergani@nhs.net).

Dates for your Diary

26-27 January 2017

British Skull Base Society Meeting, Cardiff

https://uk.aesculap-academy.com/go/?action=AkadEventData&event_id=124536&evdate=124539

2-3 February 2017

British Neurovascular Group Meeting, Glasgow

https://uk.aesculap-academy.com/go/?action=AkadEventData&event_id=134177&evdate=134183

10 February 2017

SBNS Research Day, London

www.etches.com/sbnsresearchday

2-3 March 2017

British Neurosurgical Research Group Meeting, Birmingham

https://uk.aesculap-academy.com/go/?action=AkadEventData&event_id=124566&evdate=124568

16 March 2017

SBNS CSF Meeting (prior to the British Paediatric Neurosurgical Group Meeting), Liverpool

29-31 March 2017

SBNS Spring Meeting, Oxford

<http://www.sbns.org.uk/index.php/conferences/oxford-2017/>

14-17 May 2017

Joint Meeting of the SBNS & German Society of Neurosurgery, Magdeburg

<http://www.sbns.org.uk/index.php/conferences/german/>

17-19 May 2017

Joint Meeting of the SBNS, The Congress of Neurological Surgeons & Spanish Society of Neurosurgery, Barcelona

<http://www.sbns.org.uk/index.php/conferences/spanish-society-congress-senec-2017/>