

UK Meningitis Study

Improving the diagnosis of meningitis



Newsletter

December 2014



Dear Colleagues,

Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you to everyone for working to complete CRFs over the last two months. We managed to get 1119 completed CRFs out of 1139! Fiona has now pulled the data off OpenClinica and is in the process of analysing the results.

We are delighted to tell you that we recruited our 1000th participant to the UK Meningitis Study in June – well done to Blackpool who recruited the patient! We are now approaching 1250 participants in the study with recruitment going strong across 35 sites.

You'll find the recruitment league table on the next page with some fantastic results from new entries (let's hope these sites keep it up!) and a good shuffle all round. Blackpool (99) and Royal Liverpool (98) are almost neck and neck to be the first site to recruit 100 patients.

Welcome to the study to new sites North Devon, North Staffordshire, Northumbria, Dudley, Cornwall, Lewisham, King's College and King's Lynn. Sadly, we said goodbye to Southport and Ormskirk in October, thanks for your hard work Maria Hamilton, Dr Cecilia Jukka and Dr Judith Bowley! We are hoping to have sites in Edinburgh and Aberdeen join the study in the new year.

Chloe Smith, our data manager, has moved on to a job at the Liverpool Cancer Trials Unit, we are sad to see her go but wish her the best of luck in her new role.

In this newsletter we also have a meet the team profile, tips and reminders, information on a new CTIMP study and dates for your diary.

Thank you again for all your help and support.

Fiona McGill
Research Fellow

Tom Solomon
Chief Investigator

Greg Gibson
Administrator



Site League Table 	Enrolled	Enrolled per month
Blackpool Victoria Hospital	99	3.54
Northumbria (new entry)	5	3.33
Kings College London (new entry)	11	3.14
Leicester	61	3.05
Royal Liverpool	98	2.72
Leeds Teaching Hospital	83	2.18
Manchester Royal Infirmary	53	1.96
East Lancs NHS Trust	46	1.84
South Tees	69	1.82
Bradford Royal Infirmary	62	1.77
Cornwall (new entry)	7	1.75
University Hospital of North Staffordshire	11	1.59
Stepping Hill	57	1.57
Birmingham Heartlands Hospital	25	1.54
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals	54	1.47
University Hospital of Morecambe Bay	50	1.43
Countess of Chester	44	1.26
Salford Royal	37	1.19
North Cumbria	45	1.18
Mid Yorkshire	28	1.00
Arrowe Park, Wirral	28	0.97
Leighton Hospital, Crewe	29	0.91
Scarborough	17	0.85
Pennine Acute Trust	26	0.81
Aintree Hospital	26	0.76
Southport*	25	0.74
Huddersfield	23	0.70
UHSM	15	0.68
Wigan Infirmary	23	0.68
North Devon	4	0.57
Macclesfield DGH	18	0.50
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kings Lynn (new entry)	1	0.50
York	9	0.45
Lewisham (new entry)	2	0.40
Walton	4	0.11
Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley	1	0.11
Edinburgh**	0	0.00
Aberdeen**	0	0.00

** Not yet R and D approved



TIPS AND REMINDERS

Site File Checks

We sent out the version check sheet on 14th October but we still haven't received these back from some sites – please make sure to get this check completed or we will be chasing you up in the new year!

The UK Meningitis website has been updated with the current documents

Thermometers & Total Morbidity Score

Unfortunately, the study has run out of thermometers and we cannot currently replace them. We are asking that unless patients have their own thermometers that they leave the fever and temperature sections blank and complete all other fields as normal.

CRFs

Please remember to complete all CRFs as soon as possible to avoid a backlog. As some of you will know there was a huge amount of work to get up to date in November and we'd like to avoid this in future.

If you don't have time to enter data straight onto OpenClinica try to fill in as much data on a paper CRF as possible before the notes get pulled away.

Remember

You can email through enrolment forms if they are password protected, but you can send any anonymised/redacted data by email as normal.

OpenClinica

If something has not been done or not recorded and there is no option to tick not done and the question has an ***orange asterisk*** to indicate a mandatory field, you can enter 'UNK' and OpenClinica will allow you to save the section.

However, please do not tick 'unknown' or 'not applicable' for the PCR tests as they are either done or not, please enter either not done, negative or positive.

Per Patient Payments

To invoice for your per patient payment please email greg1@liv.ac.uk with a completed Per Patient Payment form, Greg will approve the form and then you can send through your invoice. Please ask your finance department to **send the invoice directly to Greg.**

Treatment Page

We are sorry for the inconvenience caused by the treatment page – please skip this page on OpenClinica and fax or email a scan of the page to Greg and he will enter it for you.



IMPORTANT UPDATE!

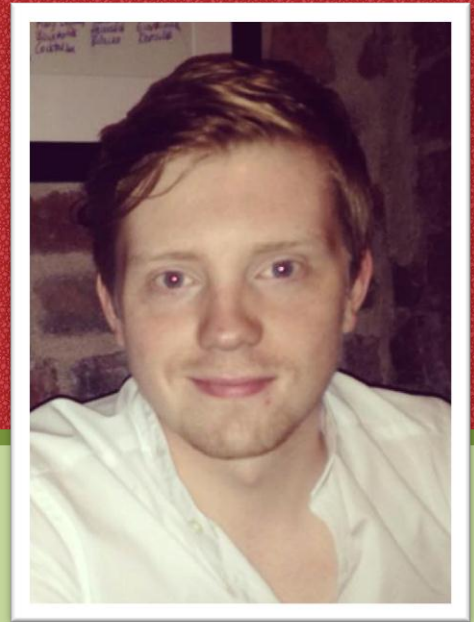
The UK Meningitis Study will continue through to at least March 2015 for the time being, with the possibility of further extension. Please continue to recruit participants.

We will be in touch as soon as we have a definite end date for the study.



Team Spotlight

We would like to introduce you to some members of the wider UK Meningitis team so in this section we will put the spotlight on them!



Greg Gibson

What is your job/role?

Research Administrator – I handle enrolments, some data queries and other admin for UK Meningitis. I also work on the Enceph UK study and as part of the Brain Infections Group.

Where do you work?

In the Ronald Ross Building, University of Liverpool.

What is your background?

I previously worked in HR at the university handling recruitment, and before that I worked for an arts organisation as an administrator.

What are your research interests?

I like science but not working in great detail or depth with it so I enjoy seeing the raw data and how that develops into research and the results that come from studies.

Name three things you like.

Cheese, comics and cooking

And three things you dislike.

Football, mushrooms and being too hot.

NEW STUDY - *dex*ENCEPH

Do corticosteroids improve outcome in herpes simplex virus encephalitis? As many of you will know this is a vexed question! We now have the chance to answer it.

We are currently designing a randomised controlled trial of dexamethasone in adults with HSV encephalitis which will roll out across the UK in 2015. Our goal is to show whether corticosteroids make a difference in patient's neuropsychological sequelae, functional outcome and brain swelling.

This is an important question and it's a relatively simple study to add to your portfolio. Unlike UK Meningitis, which we know involves lots of patients with suspected meningitis, the new treatment trial will **ONLY** be for those with **PROVEN** HSV encephalitis, so you are likely to see only 1-2 patients per year!

If you are interested in participating in this study or have any questions about it please let us know by emailing the Clinical Research Fellow, Cristina Fernandez at Cristina.fernandez@liverpool.ac.uk or you can ring her in January on 0151 795 9688.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Neuro ID Course 2015

7-8 May 2015

Ever struggled with a patient with a brain infection? Then NeuroID is for you!

Featuring case presentations and talks by UK and international experts, as well as updates on the latest brain infections research, this great value CPD course is a must for any clinician with an interest in neurological infections.

£265 early bird | £295 full rate

Registration opening soon!

<https://www.liv.ac.uk/neuroidcourse/>

25th **ECCMID** Copenhagen, Denmark
25-28 April 2015

 **ESCMID** EUROPEAN SOCIETY
OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY
AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

European Congress on Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 2015

25-28th April 2015

Copenhagen

<http://www.eccmid.org/>

Early bird rates available before 14th January

Merry Christmas

From the UK
Meningitis Team

Important contacts

Fiona McGill, Research Fellow: 0151 795 9606

Greg Gibson, Research Administrator: 0151 795 9670

Richard Crew, IT Systems Developer (and all things OpenClinica™ related!):
0151 795 9611

Meningitis Research Foundation (for help and support for patients and medical staff): www.meningitis.org

**Thank you again and Merry
Christmas from all at Brain
Infections UK.**