

April 2012

Welcome to the third edition of the Meningitis NW newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

Sorry for the delay in getting the third edition of the newsletter out to you but things have been getting busy with the study.

Recruitment is picking up greatly and we have almost 150 patients enrolled now – again you can see how you are doing compared to other sites on page 2! We also have over 20 sites greenlighted and enrolling patients – well done all. Keep up the good work! Well done to Leeds who have taken the top spot and also well done to Calderdale who have come from not even being on the table to having successfully achieved R and D approvals in record time and recruited 4 patients!

The spotlight section this time on page 3 focuses on our new BrainInfectionsUK research nurse who is proving to be an invaluable member of the team – I am not sure how I coped without her!

I have included a few reminders and pointers on page 4 to try and improve both protocol adherence and clinical care in some cases.

There are also some early facts and figures that may interest you.

Finally you can find out about any dates for your diary on the last page – at the time of writing there are still a few places left for both the research update day (16th May) and the *NeuroID* course (17-18th May).

Thanks again for all your help and support. We couldn't do this without you.

Fiona McGill
Clinical Research Fellow

Tom Solomon
Chief investigator



League Table

| Site | In set up | Recruiting | No. recruited |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------|
| South Tees | | ✓ | 21 |
| Leeds Teaching hospitals Trust | | ✓ | 29 |
| North Cumbria University Hospitals | | ✓ | 8 |
| Warrington | | ✓ | 5 |
| Stockport | | ✓ | 9 |
| Bolton | | ✓ | 3 |
| Newcastle Hospitals | | ✓ | 12 |
| Royal Liverpool | | ✓ | 15 |
| Whiston | | ✓ | 0 |
| Trafford General | | ✓ | 3 |
| Macclesfield | | ✓ | 0 |
| Pennine Acute Trust | | ✓ | 1 |
| Manchester Royal Infirmary | ✓ | | |
| Wythenshawe | ✓ | | |
| University Hospitals of Morecombe Bay | | ✓ | 7 |
| Lancashire Teaching hospitals | | ✓ | 2 |
| Wigan | | ✓ | 5 |
| Wirral | ✓ | | |
| Countess of Chester | | ✓ | 6 |
| Bradford | | ✓ | 3 |
| Crewe | | ✓ | 1 |
| Southport | | ✓ | 4 |
| Blackpool | ✓ | | |
| Aintree | | ✓ | 2 |
| Walton | | ✓ | 0 |
| Salford | ✓ | | |
| Calderdale | | ✓ | 4 |
| East Lancs | | | |
| Tameside | | | |

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



Name: Claire Matata

Where do you work? I work with the Brain Infections UK group in Liverpool, with my post being funded by the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen Hospitals Trust.

What is your job/role? Research Nurse.

What is your background? (e.g. where were you born, university, jobs/work to date etc etc...)

I was born and grew up in Shrewsbury, Shropshire. I started off by doing a History degree at Aberystwyth University; then joined the British Army, where I met my fiancé Andrew. After coming out of the Army, I did my Adult Nursing degree at Liverpool University. I'd actually thought about doing my nurse training for a while before I actually got round to it! I loved my nurse training, and had some really good tutors who inspired my interest in research. Before becoming a research nurse I was lucky enough to get some really good nursing experiences. I've worked in thoracic surgery, prison nursing, and community nursing. All of these jobs were challenging in their own way, but I enjoyed all of them and learnt lots. However, I always really wanted to be a research nurse, so when the research nurse post with the brain Infections group was advertised, I jumped at the chance. I've been in post for just under 2 months now, and have had to learn a lot quite quickly, but it's been absolutely great. I hope to stay in research for the foreseeable future.

What are your research interests? Even though the specialty of brain infections is completely new to me, I've found it really interesting, and would definitely like to explore it further. I hope to eventually complete my Master's in research, and would love to find an area within brain infections to complete my research dissertation in.

Name three things you like. Keeping fit, wine, and my dog Billy!

And three things you dislike. Abba, peas, and not having a regular supply of Hobnob biscuits at my desk!

If you would like to contact Claire regarding the Meningitis NW study (or any of the other BrainInfections UK Studies) she can be contacted on **0151 795 9674**

News items

The shiny new webserver for on line data entry is now available so if you would like to make use of it and input the CRFs directly onto the database please do let me know.

Research Update Day 16th May

This is your chance to hear more about this study and others in the portfolio.

Please register at

www.braininfectionsuk.org/events

Please also look at our website if you haven't already at www.braininfectionsuk.org/meningitisnw

Many of the documents needed for the study can be accessed from here. You can also have a look at the other studies in the Portfolio and see how they are doing at www.braininfectionsuk.org

Fax issues

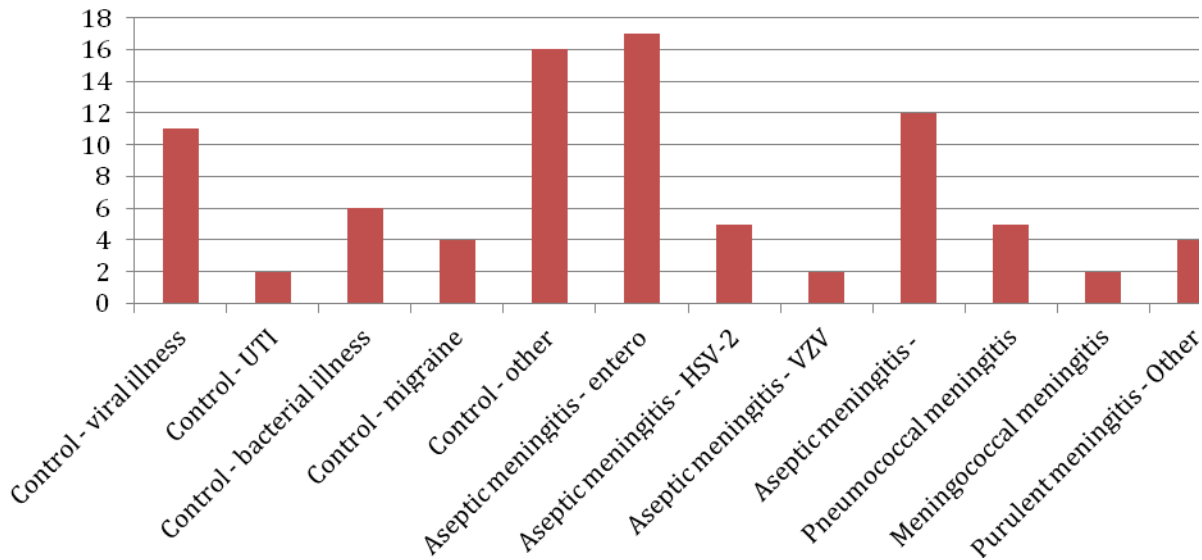
Apologies again about the lack of fax. We are looking into it and hope to have it fixed soon. You can fax enrolments to 0151 795 5528 but CRFs should be sent or scanned and e-mailed due to the size of them.

Reminder time

- We need more patients recruited **prior to LP** in order to get some extra CSF for the substudies – please remember if you are based on an acute medical ward
- We need more patients with **TB meningitis** – remember they are eligible too
- Don't forget to check the **HSV type specific serology** on patients with HSV meningitis
- Don't forget to offer an **HIV test** to all patients with meningitis
- Encourage juniors/ward staff to make sure **concurrent glucose** is done (whether in the study or not)
- Encourage **full viral PCR work up** in cases of aseptic meningitis, including stool and throat PCR for enterovirus
- Remember to ask patients if they would be willing to self take **genital swabs** if they have aseptic meningitis
- Remember to ask patients about **genital lesions** – past and present.
- For patients who have consented to substudies please try and make sure the patient had the **PAXgene sample taken as soon as possible** – preferably within 48 hours of admission.
- Remember to take the **second PAXgene sample** at 3-5 days/discharge.

A few Results – from the first 100 patients (data available on 85/100)

Aetiology



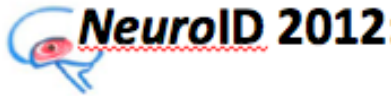
Investigations

| Results | Controls (n=39) | ASM (n=36) | SBM (n=10) |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| WCC (median) | 9.1 | 9.37 | 15.12 |
| Neuts (median) | 7.2 | 7.17 | 12.23 |
| Lymphs (median) | 1.5 | 1.26 | 1.1 |
| CRP (median) | 60 | 25 | 115.5 |
| Opening Pressure (median) | 17.75 | 20 | 40 |
| CSF Protein (median) | 0.33 | 0.675 | 4.82 |
| CSF glucose (median) | 3.5 | 3.15 | 0.4 |
| CSF/blood glucose | 0.65 | 0.55 | 0.03 |
| HIV test done? | 8/38 (all negative) | 12/36 (all negative) | 6/10 (one known HIV pos) |
| CT head done(%age abnormal) | 74.4% (14) | 86.11% (13%) | 100% (60%) |

- 5 cases of HSV-2 meningitis, one had concurrent genital lesions, none had previous genital disease, **none had type specific serology done.**
- Only 42/85 patients had a concurrent glucose done at the time of LP
- Only 39% of patients with meningitis getting an HIV test.
- Only 3 patients recruited prior to LP

Dates for your diary

Research Update Day 16th May 2012. Come and here about the research you are involved in.



Liverpool NeuroID Course 17/18th May 2012

www.liv.ac.uk/neuroidcourse



British Infection Association Trainees meeting and Spring Meeting 24th and 25th May 2012

www.britishinfection.org/drupal/content/bia-annual-spring-meeting



ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH NEUROLOGISTS

Annual Meeting, Brighton 2012

29th May 2012 – 31st May 2012



**Thankyou again for all
your help from all at Brain
Infections UK.**