

Research and Development

Bulletin, July 2018

Safe effective care through research

ELHT recruits first participant for the Stillbirth study

Being pregnant after the death of a baby can be a very stressful and emotional time for women and partners. A new study will examine the possibility of conducting research testing a new package of care to improve support for parents. The study, Better Care Pathways in Pregnancies after Stillbirth, is being conducted at two hospitals in North West England – East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust and Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. It aims to establish whether parents are willing to take part in the research, whether the changes proposed work and the best ways of assessing the effect on parent's well-being and on maternity services. ELHT Midwife, Rachael Massey is coordinating the study at both hospitals and recruited the first participant at ELHT. The 10th participant has now entered the study.



This research project is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) under its Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) Programme (Grant Reference Number PB-PG-0416-20003). The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NHS, the NIHR or the Department of Health and Social Care.

Cancer research team achievement in prostate cancer study

The ELHT cancer research team have entered 6 patients into the IPATential150 study and are currently the UK site caring for the highest number of study participants. The study, led at ELHT by Principal Investigator and Consultant Oncologist, Dr Parikh, is comparing 2 combinations of medication (Abiraterone plus Prednisone/ Prednisolone with or without Ipatasertib) in patients with previously untreated, metastatic, castrate-resistant prostate cancer. ELHT has been the highest recruiting site since the study opened in October 2017 and has remained so throughout the duration of the study so far.

Thanks to the Baby OSCAR study team

The Co-ordinating Centre for the baby-OSCAR study sent tea-time treats and a certificate to thank the research team and staff on the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Burnley General Teaching Hospital. It marked the recruitment of the 5th East Lancashire patient into the study. Baby-OSCAR aims to find out whether a confirmed large Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA) in very premature babies should be treated with ibuprofen within 72 hours of birth. The study is co-ordinated from the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit Clinical Trial Unit (NPEU CTU), sponsored by the University of Oxford and is led locally by Principal Investigators Dr Soni and Dr Sivashankar.



In this edition

- First participant for the Stillbirth study
- Cancer research team success
- Thanks from the baby-OSCAR study team
- Trust-wide effort for the DALES study
- Cardiology research

Contact us

For support and information on research at East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust, please contact Research and Development (R&D) Department
Level 3, Royal Blackburn Hospital
Tel: 01254 733008
Fax: 01254 733683
Email: research@elht.nhs.uk

Celebrating research at ELHT

If you'd like to include a story about your research, please contact:
hazel.aston@elht.nhs.uk

Trust-wide research effort for the DALES study

Intense activity took place in theatres and the research department, over a 3 day period, whilst East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust (ELHT) supported the DALES study (Drug Allergy Labels in the Elective Surgical population).

Many patients report drug allergies during their pre-operative anaesthetic assessment and wear a coloured wrist band as an inpatient to highlight these, but details of such reactions are often not well documented in the patient notes and incorrect drug allergy labels can be harmful. The DALES study used a patient questionnaire, anaesthetist survey and patient follow-up, to evaluate the prevalence of patient-reported and documented allergy to drugs relevant to anaesthesia, and to learn more about anaesthetists' knowledge and attitudes to allergy.

The study was overseen at ELHT by Principal Investigator and Consultant Anaesthetist, Dr Sri Chukkambotla who said, "DALES was led and sponsored by RAFT which is an anaesthetic trainee research network forum. We had Dr David Perry and Dr Redmond Mann as trainee leads and Dr Adam Slack as supervising consultant, who all worked hard for DALES success at ELHT. I would like to thank all the team members who supported the study".

At Royal Blackburn Hospital, 90 participants, including patients and anaesthetists, entered the study over 2 days. The patients were recruited across all specialties and identified on the Day Case Unit and on SADU. Research Nurse Jill Fitchett said "I'd like to thank the staff on SADU and on the Day Case Unit for accommodating the research team. There were up to 6 members of the research team on the units at any one time. The staff were very accommodating of the interruption and supportive of the efforts being made to design a system better able to identify a patient's allergies and less likely to cause patient distress."

At Burnley General Hospital 215 participants were recruited. Cathie Melvin, Midwifery Research Co-ordinator expressed thanks to the clinical teams in GDCSU, the post-natal and ante-natal wards, wards 6 and 15 and the elective centre and to Dee Young, Anaesthetic Secretary, the ELHT Women and Children's Health Research Team and ELHT Anaesthetic Leads for their guidance and support.

Pitches trial team thank East Lancashire researchers



The women's health research team were thanked for their contribution to the Pitches trial by the co-ordinating centre at the University of Oxford. The study is evaluating the use of ursodeoxycholic acid in women with intrahepatic cholestasis of pregnancy, and its role in improving perinatal outcomes. The study is sponsored by King's College London and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and is co-ordinated by the Clinical Trial Unit at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit at the University of Oxford. The study's 500th participant was recruited in East Lancashire and was marked with a feature in the Pitches trial newsletter featuring the work of Principal Investigator and Consultant obstetrician, Mrs Rineke Schram, and the research team.

Cardiology team present research successes



Regional Cardiovascular Speciality Lead and local Consultant Cardiologist Dr Scot Garg and Research Nurses Karen Davies and Karen Marsden attended the Spring Cardiovascular Research Meeting hosted by the NIHR CRN Greater Manchester. The team presented the results of four randomised controlled trials and 7 registry studies that have all completed recruitment. A total of 768 East Lancashire patients have taken part in cardiology research during the course of these studies.

Four interventional cardiologists, Dr Garg, Dr McDonald, Dr Balachandran, and Dr Singh and 1 imaging specialist cardiologist Dr Banypersad, are contributing to the research effort in the department, supported by research nurses Karen Davies, Karen Marsden and Wendy Goddard and Research Support Officers in the R&D department.

New studies are opening to recruitment. Master Dapt is comparing shortened versus prolonged dual anti-platelet therapy (DAPT) in high bleeding-risk patients receiving Ultimaster stents. A further 2 cardiology research studies are currently in set-up.

We are very pleased that Burnley General Hospital and Royal Blackburn Hospital are jointly participating in PITCHES for East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust and have so far recruited a total of 26 women to the trial. Thank you to Burnley for randomising 14 women and to Blackburn for randomising 12 women to date. Please keep up the great teamwork.

We were delighted that Burnley randomised the 500th PITCHES participant in February.

Publications

The Stroke Oxygen Study (SOS) published and featured as NIHR signal

The Stroke Oxygen Study (SOS) has been published in the [Journal of the American Medical Association](#) and featured as an [NIHR signal](#). East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust contributed to the SOS study, overseen locally by Principal Investigator, Dr Goorah. A total of 8003 patients with acute stroke were randomised, within 24 hours of admission, to 3 days of continuous oxygen, nocturnal oxygen or control group. The study showed that giving oxygen to non-hypoxic patients after a stroke does not improve patient outcomes and reinforces the need to monitor oxygen levels to guide the appropriate use of oxygen therapy on an individual basis.

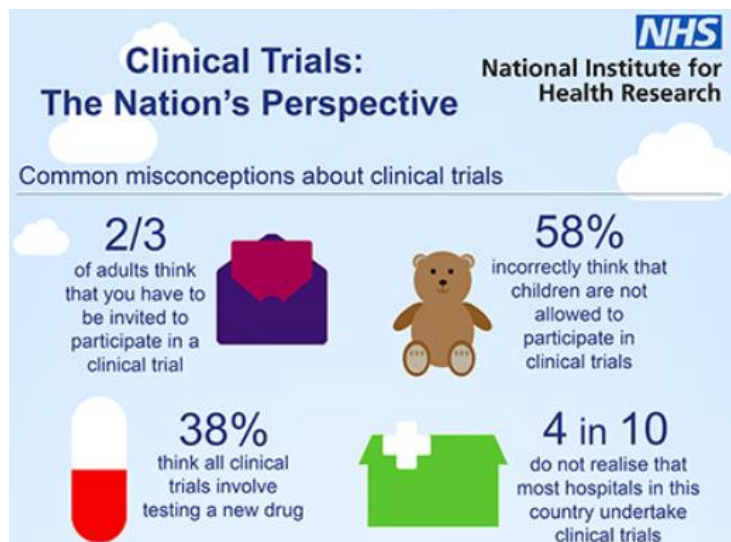
EMPIRE study published

The results of the EMPIRE study were published in the journal Health Technology Assessment. The study, antiEpileptic drug Monitoring in PREgnancy, was open to pregnant women with epilepsy receiving care in the Trust and at other hospitals in the UK. The study aimed to find out whether using routine blood tests to monitor epilepsy drug levels during pregnancy is better than management based on clinical findings alone. The risk of seizures and pregnancy complications as well as infants' birthweight and mothers' quality of life were similar in both groups of patients studied. The findings do not support regular blood monitoring of antiepileptic drug levels during pregnancy.

New survey reveals public misconceptions about research

The NIHR has issued a call for more people to join clinical trials and get involved in research, following a new survey which revealed that, although 85% of people want to help the NHS find better treatments, only 14% have taken part in a clinical trial.

The survey of 2000 UK adults also revealed a number of public misconceptions about research and regional differences in the number of people taking part in research. To find out more see the [NIHR website](#) and [infographic](#) summarising the results.



NIHR patient experience survey

The results of the [NIHR national patient experience survey for 2017-18](#) have also been published. The survey asked 3 key questions of the 4312 patients, taking part in research, across all 14 Local Clinical Research Networks in England. 87% of patients had a good experience of taking part in research and 83% would be happy to take part in another study. The report identifies recurrent themes and provides an important insight into research from a participant's perspective.

In brief

- The government has announced a £215 million [investment in NHS health research](#). An additional £3 million will also be invested in the creation of a new research leader programme for nurses and midwives to help influence new approaches to health and care and improve patient experience
- To commemorate NHS at 70, the Guardian has published an article on NHS research [Getting results](#): why NHS clinical trials are the envy of the world
- Presentations from the 2018 Annual R&D forum conference can now be accessed on the [RD forum website](#)
- A presentation on the GDPR has been uploaded to the R&D pages of OLI and a key facts sheet is available on the [Medical Research Council website](#)
- The second round of the [Innovation Small Grants Scheme](#) has opened. The scheme enables those working within the CRN the time, skill and resource to work in new ways, try new things and ultimately be innovative. Entries must be submitted by 5pm, 31st July.

Understanding Patient Data

This work uses data provided by patients and collected by the NHS as part of their care and support.

©datacatalyst

We would like to thank the East Lancashire patients who took part in these studies. The findings will help to inform and improve the care of future patients.