

PAEDIATRIC SURGERY

COLLABORATIVE CLINICAL RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Spring 2021

Hello and I hope you are all keeping well. There is no doubt that the pandemic has negatively influenced everyone's ability to progress clinical research that is not related to COVID. As we start to emerge on the other side I very much hope that things will pick up. In particular hospital R&D Depts which were previously completely closed to non-COVID research are now starting to have greater capacity.

To kickstart things I have put together a newsletter to highlight some of the successes that members of the clinical studies group have had over the past few years and provide you all with an update of studies that are currently ongoing or shortly due to start. **Excitingly there are several studies that are currently getting going and at least 2 that will open to widespread participation over the next 6-12 months.** Please do reach out to those leading the studies to indicate your interest and willingness to take part. Remember - collaborative research can only happen with good engagement and collaboration from everyone. There is no reason why all UK paediatric surgical centres should not be able to take part in the majority of the studies included here so please do your best to actively participate.



Timing of Stoma Closure in Neonates

This feasibility study aims to find out if it is possible to design a trial comparing early and late stoma closure in babies. We started with a survey – and had an overwhelming response from a mixture of 166 Neonatologists, Neonatal Surgeons, Specialist Dieticians and Neonatal Surgical Nurses. Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete it! Findings have been submitted to BAPS for presentation and submitted for publication. They have also influenced the next stage of the study - an observational cohort study of infants with a stoma that is starting this month in 6 sites. We will be capturing data about babies with a stoma and asking parents and clinicians for their views on a clinical trial for their baby, should one have been running now. Results will follow. If a trial is feasible, we will ask for all centres to participate!

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To coincide with what I hope will be greater time and headspace to think about research I would like to invite anyone who has a proposal for a multicentre research study to please let me know. I have identified a small pot of funding that will be able to help fund a study coordinator who will be able to facilitate the delivery of a multicentre study going forwards. Whilst this will not be adequate to support a randomised trial for instance I hope it will be adequate to support a multicentre prospective observational study **so if you have an idea for a multicentre project** that could be delivered relatively quickly it would be great to hear from you. In particular a study that helps understand a clinical problem in more detail or helps to identify / define future areas for research would be welcomed.

The **next meeting of the clinical studies group will be held on Monday 10th May** in the afternoon. Please mark this date in your diary and do your very best to attend. This will again be virtual but I very much hope that before the year is out we will be able to meet face to face once more.

Very best wishes

Nigel Hall

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Treating Oesophageal Atresia to Prevent Stricture

Does routine use of antacid medication reduce the incidence or severity of anastomotic stricture following oesophageal atresia repair?

This multicentre RCT aims to find out. The study team will soon be launching a feasibility stage that aims to determine if a future RCT is feasible and if so will help design the trial so that there is strong engagement from surgeons, neonatologists and parents. All surgeons who treat babies with OA will be asked to contribute to the feasibility stage. If the trial proceeds we will need as many centres as possible to participate. The feasibility stage will start early summer.

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WHAT SHOULD WE RESEARCH?

Many of you will have taken part on the priority setting exercise at the 2019 BAPS congress. This successfully identified 20 target areas for research in the field of general surgery of childhood. A paper describing the process and summarising the priority areas can be found [here](#) (it's open access). These areas should be strongly considered for future research endeavours.

Research priority setting general surgery of childhood

CONTRACT



CONservative TRreatment of Appendicitis in Children – a randomised controlled Trial

How do outcomes of non-operative treatment compare with surgery for children with uncomplicated acute appendicitis?

Following on from the successful feasibility trial in 2018, we will be launching this larger multicentre RCT this summer. The COVID pandemic taught us that many surgeons are willing to use non-operative treatment and patients are happy to consider it. This trial will provide data allowing outcomes to be compared. Open to all UK centres, NIHR funded and will provide research nurse support to all participating centres.

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INTERNATIONAL
CONGENITAL LUNG MALFORMATION
REGISTRY

The ICLMR launched January this year and welcomes all UK centres. The registry aims simply to collect data on all cases of children with a congenital lung malformation (e.g. CPAM, sequestration, bronchogenic cyst, lobar emphysema etc) whether they are diagnosed before or after birth. There is no requirement to treat them in any particular way, just to collect high quality prospective data that can be used for research in the future. UK ethical approval is already in place to allow all centres to participate so please sign up now!

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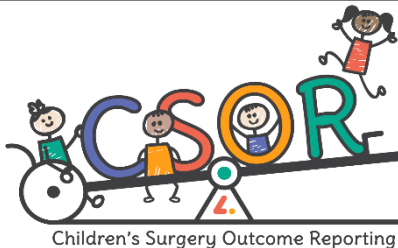
Study email: iclmr@soton.ac.uk

Twitter: [@ICLMRstudy](https://twitter.com/ICLMRstudy) Website: www.iclmr.org

TROUBLES WITH MAGNETS



All specialist children's centres are seeing increasing numbers of children with ingested strong magnets. Real damage is being caused and large numbers of children are requiring surgery. To understand the scale of the problem, the extent of complications, treatments and outcomes a multi-specialty group of paediatric ED physicians and surgeons are planning a **prospective surveillance study**. If you would like to **get involved in helping design this study** please let me know. We hope to start the surveillance period over the summer.



Children's Surgery Outcome Reporting

The **Children's Surgery Outcome Reporting (CSOR)** project is a 5-year NIHR funded project, that aims to find out if it is possible to design a multi-centre

data collection and reporting system which provides units with information about their practice and outcomes alongside the national picture but without placing a reporting burden on surgeons. The hope is that by collecting and providing these data, sharing of good practice can be facilitated, and outcomes can be improved. Initially, the programme is running in 8 pilot sites chosen to provide diversity in location, size, organisation of services and EPR systems used. If the project is successful, and feedback from pilot sites positive, there is potential to expand the project nationally after the 5 years.

It is really important the system is designed with the needs of all paediatric surgeons in mind. To understand these needs, the project team are forming a **Surgeon's Advisory Group** with representation from **ALL centres** as well as trainees. If you would like to **represent your centre**, help shape the output of this project please contact the study team:

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TRAINEE CORNER

The trainee research network is a key part of the UK multicentre collaborative research effort. Current studies are detailed here – please make contact and get involved!



The DEFECT study is now collecting data!

A multi-centre international prospective service evaluation of the management and 1-year outcomes of children with CDH with a focus on recurrence.

This national survey of consultants and registrars about decision making and practice during paediatric and adult emergency

National Survey of Practice for Emergency Testicular Fixation



scrotal exploration is open. Please complete the survey!

The Blunt Liver And Spleen Trauma (BLAST) Audit

This is comparing UK management with APSA guidance including 6m follow-up. Data collection is nearly complete!

Magnet and bAttery inGestioN: a rEtrospective sTudy

A multicentre retrospective study of children admitted after magnet/button battery ingestion - now collecting final data.

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