



SPRUSD Setting Priorities & Reducing Uncertainties for people with Skin Disease

SPRUSD NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first edition of the SPRUSD Newsletter. This issue focuses on our key achievements and developments over the last 12 months.



BEEP Study

We are delighted to say that the BEEP feasibility study has been a huge success. We have now

completed recruitment and are in the process of following up the families over the next six months. A funding proposal will be submitted to the NIHR HTA in February 2011.

Interest in an "international family" of overlapping RCTs of emollients for eczema prevention is growing. These trials will be sufficiently different to answer a variety of questions in different settings, yet sufficiently similar (particularly in outcome measures) to permit meta-analysis. All studies will be advised by an International Scientific Advisory Board and the timing of each will depend on local factors.

GREAT Database

The **GREAT** database is launched!

The GREAT database has now gone live and is publicly available at www.greatdatabase.org.uk. It includes detailed records of all eczema trials published since the year 2000, and is updated monthly. This is a fantastic resource for researchers, clinicians and patients throughout the world and we are keen to foster collaborative projects that use the data contained in the database.

The database contains information on randomised controlled trials on treatments for eczema.



Patient Panel

In the past, patient and carer involvement in our work has been done on an individual or study basis. From feedback and our own observations we recognised that we needed to give those involved in our research more support and training. Also, skin disease is very diverse and we needed to increase the breadth of those involved in our work. It was felt that setting up a CEBD Patient Panel would help us to achieve these aims. The CEBD Patient Panel now has approaching 30 members, (a mixture of patients and carers). An article published in the INVOLVE newsletter highlights the work being carried out by CEBD Patient Panel. For more information the article can be viewed at www.invo.org.uk/pdfs/Summer2010d3.pdf





Patient Resources and Decision Aids

Formal links have now been made between the SPRUSD team and NHS Choices and NHS Direct.

This collaboration will provide an international platform for the wider dissemination of our evidence-based patient information and resources. On-line **decision aids** will be produced and disseminated in collaboration with NHS Direct, and **patient information resources** are being produced in collaboration with NHS Choices.

Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC)

Despite being one of the most common forms of non-melanoma skin cancer, our Cochrane systematic review found just one randomised controlled trial looking at the treatment of SCC.

We are now keen to develop our own trial and have conducted surveys of all the relevant professional groups to assess the most important questions for future research.

The two most popular topics to date are:

- What are the most appropriate excision margins for high and low risk SCC?
- Does the addition of radiotherapy after excision of an SCC improve outcomes?
- Mohs versus standard excision for SCC.

STOP GAP trial

The STOP GAP trial comparing the two most commonly used systemic treatments for pyoderma gangrenosum has now recruited 52 out of the 140 participants needed for the trial. This is a great effort for such a rare disease and is now the largest PG trial ever conducted.



Vitiligo



This has been a busy year for the vitiligo work stream. The updated Cochrane systematic review has been used to inform the development of a Clinical Knowledge Summary (CKS) for use in primary care, and plans are underway to produce a similar resource for patients.

The James Lind Alliance prioritisation process has been completed and we now have ten area of treatment uncertainty recommended for future research. Five of these topics have been submitted to the NIHR HTA, who are currently assessing the possibility of developing a specific funding call for vitiligo.

Our two favourite topics for development through the SPRUSD programme are:

- Is the combination of topical steroid with topical calcineurin inhibitors better than the use of either treatment alone?
- Are hand-held NB-UVB devices effective for the treatment of vitiligo at home?



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Hope you all have a lovely Christmas and best wishes for a happy and bright 2011.

The SPRUSD Programme Grant is funded by a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) programme grant award.

