



SPRUSD
Setting Priorities & Reducing
Uncertainties for people with
Skin Disease

SPRUSD NEWSLETTER

Skin cancer evidence update advisory group meeting for NICE

By Louise Lansbury

Fiona Bath-Hextall and I attended on 8th August 2011 the Skin Cancer Evidence Update Advisory group meeting at the NICE office in London. The meeting, chaired by Hywel, was also attended by: Julia Newton-Bishop (consultant dermatologist in Leeds with an interest in melanoma); Charles Kelly (consultant clinical oncologist in Durham interested in both melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer); John Lear (consultant dermatologist in Manchester with an interest in non-melanoma skin cancer); and from NICE -Patrick Langford, who will be editing the Evidence Update; Steven Sharp (Senior Evidence Specialist at NICE) and Sian Rees (Clinical Advisor at NICE). There will also be post-meeting input from a plastic surgeon, as the plastic surgeon invited was unable to attend.

Each member of the group had been asked to provide a commentary on a subset of 20 papers published between during 2010 and up to June 2011, which had been identified as relevant to the topic area and critically appraised in advance of the meeting. Subtopics included were: Organisation of skin cancer networks; risk factors; prevention; diagnosis and staging; management of NMS; management of melanoma; follow-up.

The discussions reflected on how these papers might expand upon, modify or call into question existing knowledge and practice recommendations and the conclusions will be drawn together in the skin cancer evidence update which is currently being drafted by the editorial team at NICE, and will be circulated to group members for comments within the next couple of weeks. There were also discussions about how the actual process of producing evidence updates could be improved upon in the future, as this is clearly a new format since the changes at NICE and a new experience for everyone involved.

From the SPRUSD perspective, our Cochrane systematic review on interventions for non-melanoma skin cancer that was published last year, was one of the papers selected for discussion. It was generally agreed that, although it won't change practice in itself, there is a shocking lack of research on SCC treatment, and everyone felt that this must be a research priority in the future. It was good to get positive reinforcement from others of the importance of the programme grant work and the trials ideas for excision margins and adjuvant radiotherapy, which we are working on at the moment. Prevention of SCC was also identified as an area where there is an urgent need for more research.

Update on Priority Setting Partnership

The aim of the eczema Priority Setting Partnership (PSP), is to identify the Top 10 treatment uncertainties from the various potential and currently available treatments for eczema. The eczema PSP has several stages the first of these stages, collation of uncertainties, is now complete. The eczema PSP has had a very successful response to the first survey which asked for questions about treatment uncertainties in eczema. During the consultation survey over 400 people submitted in excess of 1000 questions. These questions came from health professionals, patients and carers.

The PSP team are now in the process of collating all these uncertainties and will prepare for the second stage of the eczema PSP, which is a survey to rank the uncertainties in order of importance, the PSP will then move to the final stage and identify the top 10 research questions about eczema treatments.

Recent Publications

Foisy M, Boyle RJ, Chalmers JR, Simpson EL and Williams HC. The Prevention of Eczema in Infants and Children: An Overview of Cochrane and Non-Cochrane reviews. Evidence-Based Child Health: A Cochrane Review Journal September 2011 (in press).

U. Gonzales, M. Whitton, V. Eleftheriadou et al: Guidelines for designing and reporting clinical trials in vitiligo" (under peer-review at the Archives of Dermatology).

Lawton S (2011) Atopic Eczema and Evidence-Based Care. Journal of the Dermatology Nurses' Association. 3 (3). DOI: 10.1097/JDN.0b013e31821c0b59.



Reflections on the importance of HOME

By Lester Firkins

(Independent Chair of the Exec Group)

On Monday I was lucky enough to be at Wimbledon for the first day of the championships seeing Nadal and Murray play to their highest level and progress onwards in the table.

On Tuesday I was lucky enough to be on a teleconference with the SPRUSD Executive looking at the huge steps of progress that are being made in their programme.

I was particularly intrigued by the work on HOME - and the fact that there are not already harmonised outcome measures for eczema.

Now I do understand that eczema is far from unique in the absence of harmonised outcome measures - but to a member of the public it seems totally bizarre that such a situation could exist. How on earth can comparisons be made on therapies and remedies if they are not compared to identical measures of success and indeed importance (to patients and clinicians).

Put this scenario to my Monday day out and you would have:

1. Absence of an understanding of when a ball is in or out.
2. Not knowing how many serves you can have.
3. Not knowing the impact of hitting the net on a serve.
4. Is underarm serving allowed?
5. What restrictions are there on clothes / balls / rackets ?
6. How should the crowd behave - shouting / cheering at failure / flash photography / running on the court?

I will stop the analogy before I get too bizarre but hopefully the point is made. Full power to the HOME project which should not be a luxury but an essential. And hopefully will be seen as an exemplar to other conditions that suffer from the same void.

STOP GAP



We now have a total of 130 participants in the trial (82/140 RCT, 48 observational). Only 58 more patients to recruit in 8 months!

This is already the largest trial of Pyoderma Gangrenosum treatments ever conducted.

Finally, congratulations to Eleanor on the birth of her daughter Lucy Abigail on 1st August.

SPRUSD Meeting



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for people with Skin
Disease

Just a quick reminder for this years SPRUSD Meeting .

'Achievements, successes and challenges of the SPRUSD Programme'

Date: Monday 7th & Tuesday 8th November

Venue: Post Grad Education Centre, QMC Campus, Nottingham

Please contact bryony.elliott@nottingham.ac.uk for more details or to book a place



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