



STOP GAP Newsletter

Issue 5, March 2011



We're halfway there! - keep finding those patients!

If EVERY site recruits just 2 patients by April 2012 we can do it!!

Summary:

- **TARGET!:**

140!

- **RECRUITED:**

70!

- **TO RECRUIT:**

70!

- **TIME LEFT (months):**

13!

- **Top 5 sites**

1 = Hull

2 = Exeter

3 = Aberdeen

4 = Leicester

5 = Sth London

Centre spotlight—Sunderland



Sunderland have done a marvellous job at improving recruitment and have moved from 18th to 6th place in the 'league tables' since January this year! Dr Katie Blasdale, PI, tells us how they have achieved this:

"Here in Sunderland we are thoroughly enjoying being a part of the STOPGAP and BLISTER trials. We now have 4 patients on the RCT arm of STOPGAP and our form-filling and photography skills have improved remarkably!

Anne our Research nurse received an award for 'Most Enthusiastic Research Nurse' at the recent Newcastle investigators meeting, and thoroughly deserved the title. Over the last few months she has visited the Stoma nurses, Gastro, Rheumatology, Colo-rectal team and liaised with the tissue viability nurses. All have been supplied with Trial information leaflets and posters and more posters displayed on various information boards around the hospital. Next she plans to move into cyberspace with notices on the Trust intranet.

Closer to home Anne sends monthly emails (at the end of each month) to the Dermatology team with an update on accrual to serve as a reminder of the trial, and leaflets and Trial information are in each Dr's consultation room.

My part is more opportunistic- two cases were phoned to me as on call emergencies at weekends, one was a routine referral and the last the result of a 'corridor referral' from a surgical colleague. I am learning to keep my eyes and ears open for suitable cases!

Many thanks for all the support and encouragement we have received from the STOP GAP Team – always very much appreciated.

If you have any queries about STOP GAP, please don't hesitate to contact us:

Eleanor Mitchell
Julie Barnes

Trial Manager
Trial Administrator

0115 8230489 / 07528 377169
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Important reminders

- For RCT patients, please **DO NOT** prescribe topical therapy (e.g Dermovate, Protopic). Refer to section 11.1 of the protocol or speak to Eleanor for more info on this.
- **DO NOT** undertake **any** trial procedure until you have taken consent—this includes enrolling patients on the randomisation system
- Please ensure you complete your CRFs as accurately as possible—this will prevent data queries being sent to you. The following hints/tips may help you:
 - Dates of birth, initials and ID numbers **MUST** match
 - Complete all fields—do not leave anything blank (the total number of ulcers & whether the patient is taking any other meds are often left blank)
 - Ensure the lesion size recorded at baseline matches what you record at the time of randomisation (note the different units used)

Please remember to file completed Data Query Forms with the completed CRF to ensure we have a full audit trail.

New paper

You may be interested in the following paper that has recently been published.

Hadi A, Lebwohl M. Clinical Features of pyoderma gangrenosum and current diagnostic trends. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2011 Feb 2.

A link to the abstract can be found on the STOP GAP website.

Trial Manager

As most of you know, Eleanor is leaving to have a baby (last day 17.6.11). Kath Foster, who some of you know from the PATCH Trial, will be covering until Eleanor returns (probably Jan/Feb 2012).

Kath will be working with Eleanor for 1 day a week from mid-April. She can be contacted on email—Katherine.foster@nottingham.ac.uk

2011 Investigator meetings

Thanks to all of you who attended one of the meetings—it was great to see you and we hope you found the meetings useful and enjoyable. If you were unable to attend the meeting, please do take a look at the slides that have been uploaded onto the STOP GAP website—there are some important training messages included. If you have any queries after reviewing the slides, please do get in touch.

It was great to talk to so many of you at the meetings and was good to hear ideas you have for improving the trial. You should have received a letter (via email) that gives you full feedback about the meeting—again this can be found on the website if you have not seen it yet.

Please ensure that other people involved in the trial at your site are aware of the slides too, this is to ensure everyone is trained in a standardised way.

Embarrassing bodies

Some of you may have seen the feature on PG on Channel 4's "Embarrassing Bodies" programme. A link to the STOP GAP website has been added to Channel 4's website in order to promote the trial:

<http://www.channel4embarrassingillnesses.com/conditions/pyoderma-gangrenosum/>

STOP GAP website

Please do check the website as it is updated on a regular basis. In order to access the 'investigators area' of the website, you do not need individual log-in details. Instead, there is a generic log-on:

Username: xxxx, password: xxxx

Please also consider adding links to the STOP GAP website to your own Trust departmental website

Congratulations!

To the following individuals who have received the first 'quarterly awards' - they have all made a significant contribution to the trial from Dec 2010-March 2011.

Principal Investigator—Dr Katie Blasdale, Consultant Dermatologist—Sunderland

Co-Investigator—Dr Kevin Lee, SpR—Norwich

Nurse—Cathy Shelley, Leicester

The following teams/people received awards at the investigator meetings. Thank you to you all:

Hull, Aberdeen, Craigavon, Sunderland, Nottingham

