

# PREVENTT

Preoperative intravenous iron to treat anaemia in major surgery

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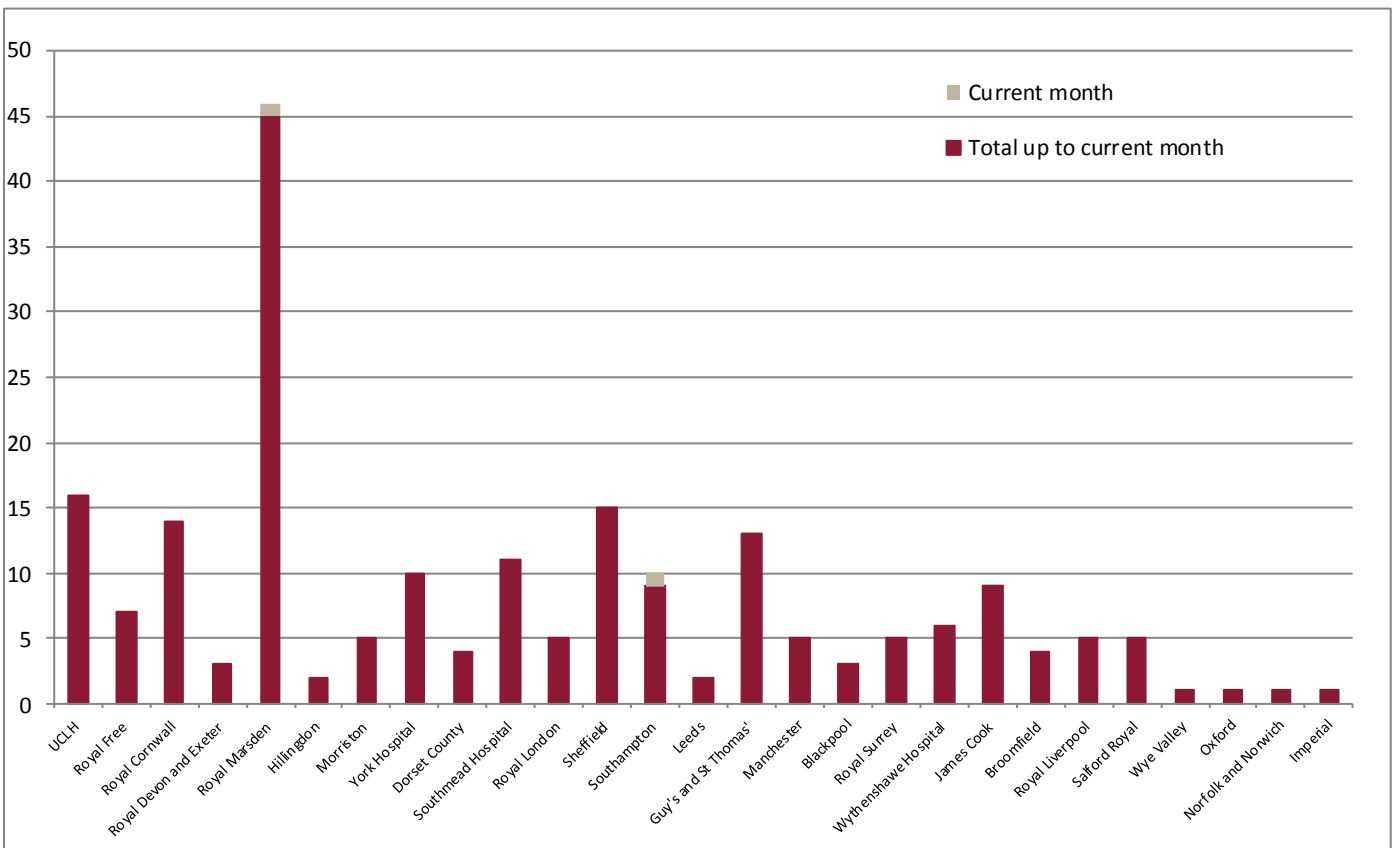
## PREVENTT News

Welcome to the first PREVENTT newsletter of 2016. This edition of the newsletter will be focusing on the nurses meeting which was held in London on 10th December. It was a helpful meeting which identified changes to the protocol which could help recruitment at sites. Some of these changes will be implemented as part of the next amendment and additional training resources to help with consenting patients are planned. One key issue raised at the meeting is the importance of local PIs engaging with research teams and providing clinical support for the trial.

Finally, this month the PREVENTT team are saying farewell to Ben Clevenger who has worked on the trial as the Clinical Research Fellow for the past two years. Many of you have met Ben at investigator meetings and site visits and also he has helped with eligibility queries. He will be missed as a key member of the project management team. Ben will be returning to clinical work and we wish him the best of luck!

## PREVENTT Recruitment – 216 Patients Randomised

During December, three sites recruited their first PREVENTT patient – John Radcliffe, Norfolk and Norwich and St Mary's (Imperial). It is great to have new sites recruiting into the trial and congratulations to all three sites who have recruited so quickly after opening. During December, our top recruiter was Royal Liverpool with two patients. January has been a slow month for recruitment with only two patients randomised. Please get in touch with us if there are any specific issues which are impacting on recruitment at your site.



## PREVENTT Nurses Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting on 10th December. It was a helpful meeting which identified some key ways that sites can be better resourced for the trial. For those of you who were unable to attend the meeting, below are summaries of the key talks. Copies of the slides and a summary of the Q&A are also available. Please get in touch with Becky Swinson ([Rebecca.swinson@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:Rebecca.swinson@lshtm.ac.uk)) if you would like these to be sent to you.



### **Kai Zacharowski – Patient Blood Management - breaking barriers from research into clinical practice**

Kai's talk focused on the importance of ensuring that research is embedded in clinical practise. This not only helps with recruitment but raises the profile of the trial amongst staff. For a trial like PREVENTT, this is particularly important as patients are more likely to have blood results earlier in the surgical pathway and clinicians refer potential patients to research teams. Kai is based in Frankfurt and his team has produced a number of resources, including a video which is available for PREVENTT sites. This video can be used to provide training and awareness in patient blood management.

### **Ian Roberts – The Craft of Collaborative Clinical Trials**

Ian Roberts is Professor in Epidemiology at LSHTM and the director of the CTU. He presented the craft of working collaboratively on a clinical trial, underlining the importance of how crucial all the medical staff and patients are whilst working on trials. Particularly (for us at LSHTM) it is key to ensure that all trial staff are motivated to work on the trial!



### **Richard Evans – The ERICCA Trial (Effect of remote ischaemic preconditioning on clinical outcome in patients undergoing coronary artery bypass graft surgery)**

Our final talk for the afternoon was from another LSHTM trial manager. The ERICCA trial completed recruitment of 1610 patients undergoing CABG in March 2014.

Like PREVENTT, ERICCA had some initial problems and the recruitment period was extended for 1 year. One of the key messages from Richard's talk is that it is possible to complete recruitment of even the most challenging trials. PREVENTT currently has 42% of patients recruited which is a fantastic achievement and with the planned extension, the target of 500 patients can be reached!

## PREVENTT - Reflections of the clinical fellow

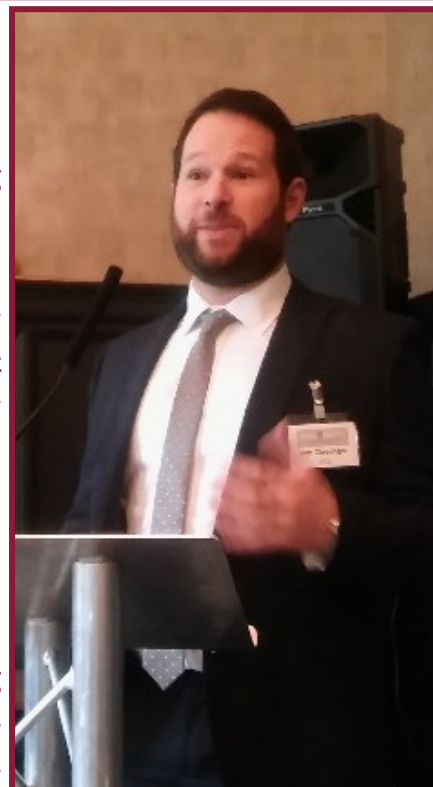
I have been involved with the PREVENTT trial for two years and this has been my first major involvement with clinical research. It has been a great opportunity to be involved with a large clinical trial, learning about the management of such projects and the practicalities of clinical research.

It has been particularly interesting to visit hospitals across the country to meet the investigators and research teams, and the subsequent contact with research nurses and PIs and return visits and investigator meetings. It was great seeing so many of the research nurses at the investigator meeting before Christmas, to hear about the shared challenges and successes of working with this trial. What is apparent is that many of the challenges facing clinical research in the NHS are common across hospitals, however large or small they are.

Being involved with PREVENTT, as a trial recruiting patients during their pre-operative period, has demonstrated many of the problems that the current patient pathways have created. Now patients have a very short period of time to be optimised prior to surgery – including the detection, investigation and treatment of anaemia. I think that one of the most positive outcomes from PREVENTT will be to provide evidence of these problems with the perioperative pathway to try to improve these services for patients, all the way from primary care to the surgical ward.

It is also interesting to reflect upon the changes to clinical practice that have happened whilst I have been involved in the trial. Even over such a short space of time there has been an increasing shift to laparoscopic and minimally invasive surgery. I have seen a great change in the priority that anaemia management, as part of the growing field of 'patient blood management' for patients undergoing surgery to reduce unnecessary and inappropriate blood transfusions, is now receiving. With new NICE guidelines stressing the importance of detecting and treating anaemia, the PREVENTT trial will now be even more important as the basis for future clinical practice in the NHS.

I have been really fortunate to have worked with Toby as chief investigator, Becky and the project management group at LSHTM, and all of the research groups at the sites across the country involved in PREVENTT – particularly Sarah at the Royal Free where I have been based. I am really looking forward to seeing the final results from the trial when it is completed.



## PREVENTT January Raffle Winner

Congratulations to Mark Edwards, Karen Salmon and the team at Southampton who are the winners of this month's box of chocolates. Another prize is up for grabs for February so keep screening patients to be in with a chance!

## Contact Information

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