

PREVENTT

Preoperative intravenous iron to treat anaemia in major surgery

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PREVENTT News

Welcome to the latest edition of the PREVENTT newsletter. The team hope you have all had a good start to the year.

Since the start of the year, there has been a site initiation visit at Liverpool Women's Hospital and set up is underway at the Countess of Chester Hospital. We look forward to both sites starting recruitment soon.

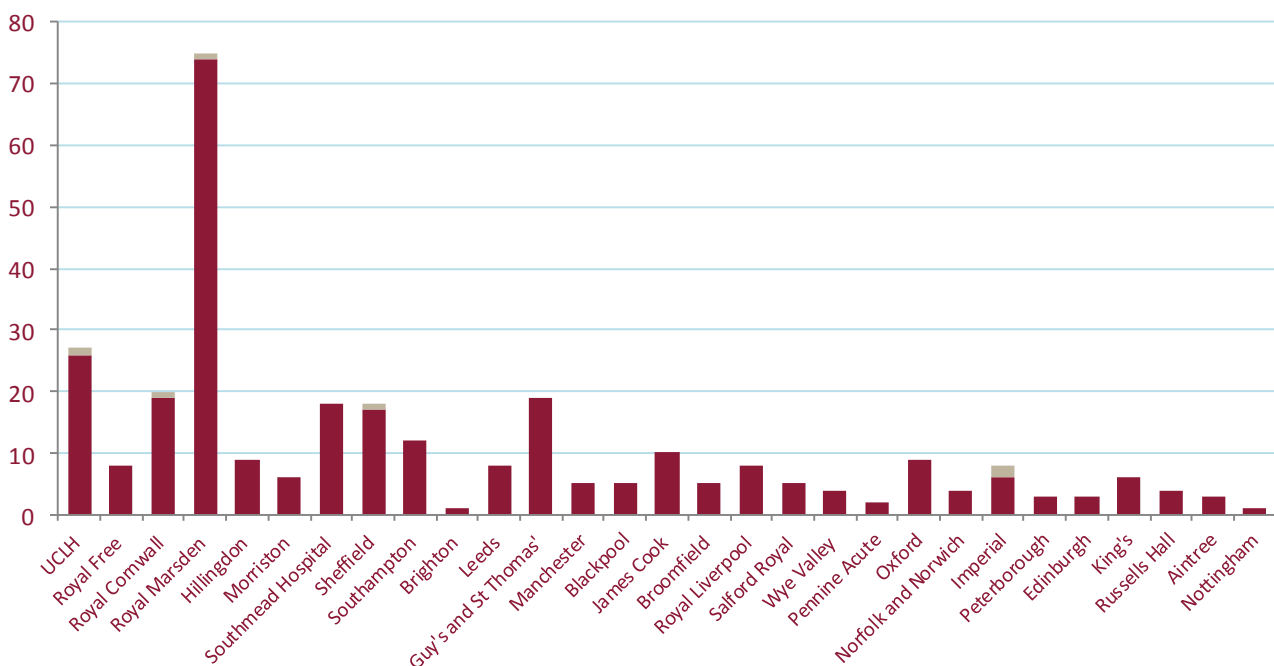
A positive meeting of the Trial Steering Committee took place in February. One of the key areas this meeting highlighted was that PREVENTT will be the biggest trial looking at the use of preoperative intravenous iron in patients undergoing abdominal surgery. The results of PREVENTT will be important as more hospitals develop their own preoperative intravenous iron pathways.

PREVENTT Recruitment– 154 patients to go!

Thank you to all sites who have recruited patients over the past few months. PREVENTT recruitment is above target which is fantastic and this due to the hard work of all our sites. 346 patients have now been randomised which is nearly 70% of our overall recruitment target.

During February, the team at Royal Cornwall recruited their 20th patient– congratulations to Cathy Ralph and the team on reaching this milestone. Recruitment has started well in 2017 with eight sites recruiting at least one patient since the start of the year. The PREVENTT Project Management Team are aware that there have been significant pressures recently at some sites, particularly around dates for elective surgery. Please get in touch with Becky (rebecca.swinson@lshtm.ac.uk) or Anna (a.butcher@ucl.ac.uk) if you are having specific issues and wish to discuss new screening and recruitment strategies.

There are now only 154 patients to go until we reach our target of 500 patients and we have a year and a half until the end of recruitment. There will be a special prize for the site that recruits our 350th patient which will start the countdown to the end of recruitment!



PREVENTT Recruitment Round Up

At the start of March, all sites will be contacted with a small recruitment target. This target will round up your current recruitment to either 5, 10, 15, 20 or 30 patients. If all sites can recruit the patients needed to reach their target, a total of 42 patients would be recruited over the next couple of months.

The Project Management Group are happy to support sites in whatever way you need— whether that is coming to meet with you in person or arranging a teleconference. In particular, it is always helpful to meet with sites when there are changes to key staff working on the trial. A number of visits have already been planned for March this year and the team are looking forward to coming and meeting with new PREVENTT staff. Toby or Anna are also happy to come and visit to speak with surgeons as we are aware that their support can be crucial in the successful identification of patients.

Engagement with GP Practices

Another key area that was highlighted at the Trial Steering Committee is the important role that GPs play in helping to identify and treat patients. This was highlighted in a recent article in the Journal of General Practice. The PREVENTT team have responded to this letter to highlight the key role that GPs play in preoperative care.

One of the main issues for PREVENTT recruitment has been that patients do not have a recent Hb when they are referred to hospital. Therefore it can be difficult to establish if a patient is anaemic. Some sites have worked with local clinicians and GPs to ensure that patients do have their bloods tested and often it is easier for the patient to have bloods taken at their local practice. The letter and the original article can be accessed here

<http://bjgp.org/content/67/654/10/tab-e-letters>

PREVENTT Raffle

During 2017, all sites who reach their round up recruitment target over the next 3 months will receive a box of chocolates as an appreciation of your support.

There is also a prize for the site who randomise the 350th patient! Keep screening and recruiting to be in with a chance.

PREVENTT Resources

Several sites have been in touch to request more pens and other resources you can use to promote the trial locally, particularly amongst preoperative and surgical staff. More pens are on the way and will be sent out to sites. The PREVENTT team can also print more copies of the patient information leaflet for you in colour.

Clinical Trials Short Course

The Medical Statistics Department (MSD) at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) will be running a short course in clinical trials. This course provides attendees with a clear understanding of the fundamental principles of Randomised Clinical Trials (RCTs). Lectures and practical sessions cover the key issues to be considered in design, conduct, analysis and reporting, with a focus on major clinical trials which directly influence clinical practice. Topics are addressed with perspectives from both public sector research and the pharmaceutical industry.

The course is relevant to those who are keen to gain an understanding of the rigorous evaluation of inter-ventions in health care, including clinical research professionals, research managers, and other scientists with an interest in clinical trials.

Places on the course are limited. The course runs for 5 days from the 19th to 23rd June 2017.

For further information and an application form please visit: <http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/sct.html>

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