



Joint SBNS / BNTRC Academic Newsletter December 2023

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Welcome

Welcome to the sixth joint academic newsletter from the **Society of British Neurological Surgeons (SBNS)** Academic Committee and the **British Neurosurgical Trainee Research Collaborative (BNTRC)**.

This newsletter includes updates on:

- Recent research news
- Currently recruiting trials in neurosurgery
- Future trials under development
- BNTRC projects
- Dates for up-coming research events

Please get in touch if you have any questions about information in this newsletter, you would like your trial to be included or you would like to contribute to future news via Carole Turner, SBNS Research Manager clt29@medschl.cam.ac.uk or Sara Venturini, BNTRC Chair sara.venturini92@gmail.com

News and events

UK neurosurgical research is now largely back on track post Covid with a number of new trials also due to open in 2024.

Rustam Salman and Neil Kitchen will be presenting the results of the CARE trial (treatment of cavernomas) at the SBNS meeting in Edinburgh in the Spring of 2024, not to be missed!!!



The SBNS Council have agreed that the Academic Committee should disseminate the results of published clinical trials in the form of an A4 flyer, to include a brief SBNS interpretation of the results. These will be uploaded onto the website.

Unfortunately it has proved difficult to secure a venue and date to hold the BNRG in the Spring of 2024, therefore the plan is to revert back to November. Plans are underway and as soon as a date and venue have been booked this will be circulated through the BNRG, BNTRC and SBNS membership lists.

Completed Trials/ trials in write up

RESCUE-ASDH

Decompressive craniectomy versus craniotomy for acute subdural hematoma

Published in the NEJM in 2023 <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2214172>

The trial team concluded that among patients with traumatic acute subdural hematoma who underwent craniotomy or decompressive craniectomy, disability and quality-of-life outcomes were similar with the two approaches. Additional surgery was performed in a higher proportion of the craniotomy group, but more wound complications occurred in the craniectomy group.

CARE

Active versus conservative management of cavernomas

Recruitment is now complete and the study is currently in the data cleaning and write up stage with a plan to present the data in April 2024

SCIL

Interleukin-1 receptor antagonist in the treatment of aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage

A randomised double blind placebo controlled phase III trial which has also completed recruitment. 612 participants have been recruited

Recruitment is now complete and final follow up is due April 2024. Results are planned for dissemination approx. September 2024.

PRaM-GBM Study

Predicting sites of treatment failure and tumour recurrence in the invasive margin of glioblastomas

PRaM-GBM has closed to recruitment and continues to follow up patients. The initial, planned analysis of the training dataset shows we can predict the site of tumour progression with a sensitivity of 78% and a specificity of 94%. These initial findings are encouraging.

ROAM

*Radiation vs Observation following surgical resection of Atypical Meningioma:
a randomized controlled trial*

A multicentre randomised controlled trial, randomising participants who have undergone gross surgical resection of an atypical meningioma to receive either early adjuvant radiotherapy or active monitoring. 157 participants were recruited and the trial is in the follow up phase, with a completion date in 2026.

Please visit the website for further updates www.roam-trial.org.uk

DENS

*Duration of External Neck Stabilisation following odontoid fracture in older or frail adults:
a randomised controlled trial of collar versus no collar*

Is earlier removal of a hard collar associated with better quality of life following odontoid fracture in the elderly population?

The study has completed the planned 2 year recruitment period and will be closing at the end of November 2023 to new patients. The team aim to report the study outcomes by Q4 2024/Q1 2025.

Currently recruiting multi-centre trials**Oncology**

Adult RCT of intraoperative DTI navigation + intraoperative ultrasound versus standard care for pts undergoing tumour resection



The primary outcome is deterioration free survival to 24 months with a cohort of 357 participants. Recruitment is due to close before the end of 2023 but an extension has been requested, decision pending

For further information contact Puneet.plaha@nds.ox.ac.uk

Trauma

MAST

Pharmacological management of post-traumatic seizures

CIs: Peter Hutchinson/ Angelos Koliass

The aim of the trial is to define the best practice in the use of anti-epileptic drugs for patients following a traumatic brain injury.

MAST PROPHTLAXIS compares different AED treatments in the prevention of a seizure

MAST DURATION compares a short course versus a long course of AED treatment post TBI seizure



Trial Coordinator: Carol Davies - Wilkie carol.davis-wilkie@nhs.net

Trial Fellow: Edoardo Viaroli ev349@medschl.cam.ac.uk

Please visit the website for further information <https://masttrial.org/>

SOS

Sugar or salt: Hyperosmolar therapy in traumatic brain injury

CI: Angelos Koliass

Does hyperosmolar therapy (hypertonic saline or mannitol) in TBI improve neurological function clinically and cost-effectively at 6 months?

For further information contact SOStrial@warwick.ac.uk



GLOBAL NEUROTRAUMA in acquired Brain and Spine Injury

CIs Peter Hutchinson, Angelos Koliass

Following on from the initial global neurotrauma grant the renewal group is on acquired brain and spine injury with a focus on 5 conditions: TBI, traumatic spine injury, stroke, brain infections and CSF disorders. Although medically focussed the aim is to go beyond this and to also work with nurses, AHP and patients as an integral part of the working group.

For further information contact Jay Rav jr934@medschl.cam.ac.uk



Spine

DISCUS

Duroplasty for Injured cervical Spinal Cord with Uncontrolled Swelling

CI: Marios Papadopoulos

A trial investigating whether performing a duroplasty improves outcomes after spinal cord injury with a cohort 394 participants

For further information contact discus@nds.ox.ac.uk



POLYFIX-DCM

Posterior decompressive surgery with fixation for degenerative cervical myelopathy

CI: Mark Kotter



Does laminectomy alone or laminectomy with fusion lead to better recovery in patients undergoing posterior decompressive surgery for DCM?

Trial Fellow: Stefan Yordanov s.yordanov@nhs.net

Please visit the website for further information <https://polyfix-dcm.com/>

RECEDE

Regeneration in cervical degenerative myelopathy

CI: Mark Kotter, Cambridge

Trial Coordinator: Daniel Alvarez-Berdugo daniel.alvarezberdugo@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Vascular

ROAR

Risk Of Aneurysm Rupture study

The aim of the trial is to recruit a cohort of 20,000 patients with unruptured aneurysms and follow up long term for aneurysm rupture using HES/PEDW/SMR/ONS databases to generate new more personalised and longer-term models of aneurysm rupture risk.

Current recruitment has reached 19,600 and the first HES search has been performed and instances of SAH are being validated.



Risk Of Aneurysm Rupture (ROAR) Study

Chief Investigator: Diederik Bulters d.bulters@soton.ac.uk

Trial fellow: Sam Hall SamuelRichards.Hall@uhs.nhs.uk

Website: www.roarstudy.co.uk

Multi-centre trials in set up

TOP-TBI

Timing of venous thromboembolism prophylaxis in TBI

CI: Angelos Koliass

STOP'EM

Prophylactic trial for epilepsy in meningiomas

CI: Michael Jenkinson

DOLPHIN

Endoscopic washout in paediatric intraventricular haemorrhage

CI: Kristian Aquilina

RESTART tICrH

Early versus late anticoagulation restart after TBI in older people

SCARF-BT

Social cognition assessment and rehabilitation for families with brain tumours

CI: Stephen Price

GO-SAH*Genetics of outcome after subarachnoid haemorrhage*

CI: Diederik Bulters

Premature Closure**SWITCH***Surgery versus conservative management for spontaneous ICH***BNTRC update and projects**

British Neurosurgical Trainee Research Collaborative



This year the BNTRC has continued to progress our existing projects, adding a new project to our portfolio. Our 2023 project call is open.

2023 Project call

The 2023 BNTRC Research Project Call is now open! This year we will select a further project to add to our portfolio of collaborative studies. For this call, we are welcoming submission for new studies relevant to neurosurgery trainee and that would benefit from trainee involvement in their delivery. The chosen project and their team will receive support and mentorship from the BNTRC committee.

Projects can be submitted using the submission form available on our website www.bntrc.org.uk. The deadline for submission of projects is Sunday 26th November 2023 by 23:59. The BNTRC and SBNS academic committee will then shortlist projects and announce these results in December. Those with shortlisted projects will be invited to present their project proposal at a virtual BNTRC evening event in January 2024.

We look forward to receiving your project submissions!

Ongoing projects

- CovidNeuroOnc 2.0 – data collection is ongoing.
- TOP TBI – the multi-centre RTC was funded by the NIHR and is in the setting up stage.
- META study – our latest BNTRC led project is in the setting up phases in the UK and Ireland.
- UK Chiari 1 – recruitment has finished. Data cleaning is currently ongoing.
- IMPACT – data collection is ending, and the data is being verified and cleaned.
- IIH-Intervention Trial (supported study) – this is being set up in a number of UK units.

BNTRC online journal club

This new BNTRC initiative aimed at discussing challenges and lessons learnt from running previous collaborative studies will launch in early 2024. It is aimed at neurosurgery trainees, fellows and juniors wanting to learn more about research study design and delivery. Stay tuned for more information!

Recent publications

The UCES study was published last year ([https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanepc/article/PIIS2666-7762\(22\)00241-1/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanepc/article/PIIS2666-7762(22)00241-1/fulltext))

Dates for your Diary

SBNS

Spring Meeting



Edinburgh
April 17th-19th 2024

BNRG

November 2024
Date and venue TBC

Carole Turner
SBNS Research Development and Clinical Trials
Manager

Sara Venturini
BNTRC Chair

Michael Jenkinson
SBNS Academic Committee Chair

INTS 2024

International Neurotrauma Society Meeting



Cambridge
September 2nd - 5th 2024

SBNS 100



October 12th – 16th 2026
London