PREVENTT

Preoperative intravenous iron to treat anaemia in major surgery

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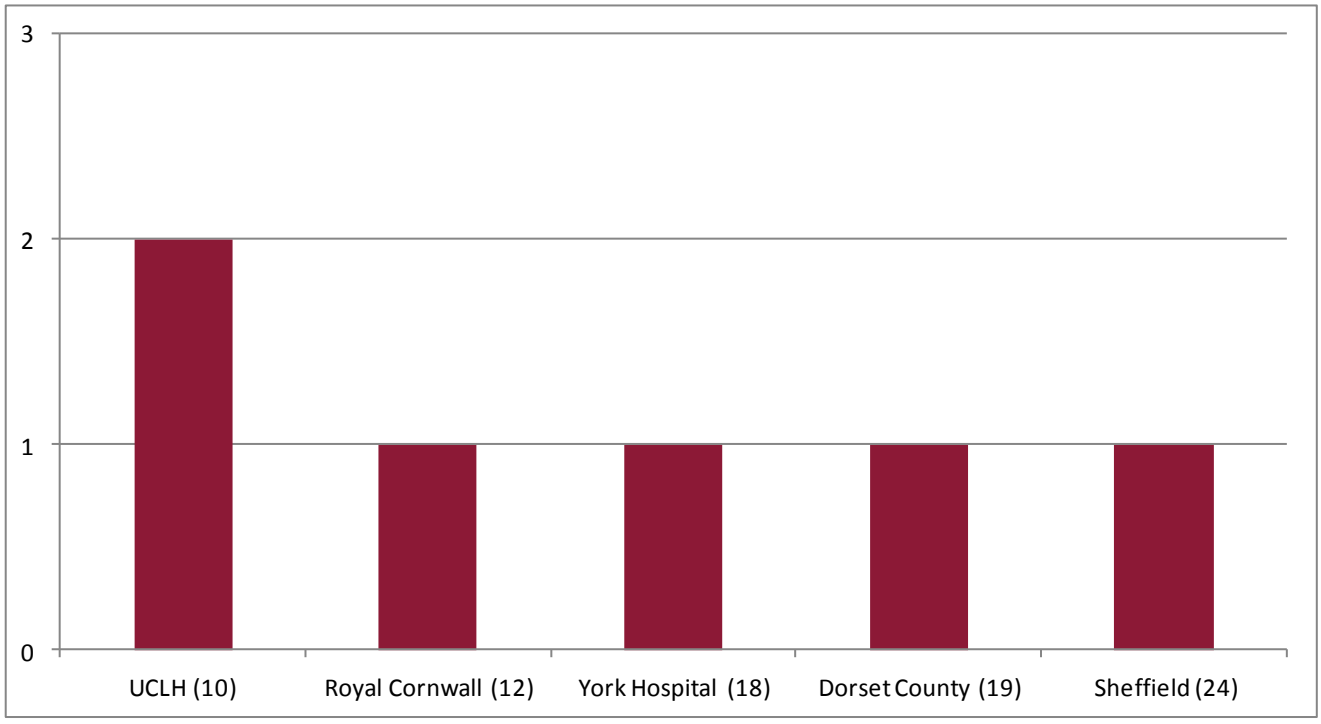
News

It has been another busy month in the PREVENTT office. Following on from the approvals for amendment 2, there have been two successful site visits at Southmead Hospital, Bristol and Freeman Hospital, Newcastle. Further site visits have been organised during March at Guy's Hospital, Royal Sussex County Hospital and the Royal London Hospital and we look forward to meeting the teams at these centres in the coming weeks.

During February, the Trial Steering Committee (TSC) and Data Safety Monitoring Committee (DSMC) have also held meetings. The main focus of the TSC was recruitment and this month, the newsletter focuses on some suggestions for screening patients.

PREVENTT Recruitment

There are now 10 actively recruiting and screening centres of which 5 have recruited their first patients. Congratulations to UCLH, Dorset County Hospital and Northern General Hospital who recruited their first patients in February!



PREVENTT Site-up Update

Site set up is progressing well at a number of other centres and this month, set up started at several new sites who were added as part of the latest amendment. Welcome to the teams at West Suffolk, Blackpool, Royal Surrey and Wythenshawe Hospitals.

As part of site initiation visits, the PI and research team will be asked to focus on how your centre plan to identify and screen patients. Sites are encouraged to think about this throughout set up and if you would like any advice, please contact Becky (Rebecca.Swinson@lshtm.ac.uk).

Screening– Top Tips!

Now that recruitment is underway at a number of sites, below are some suggestions which may help with recruitment:

1. Co-ordinate with the surgeons and ask them to flag likely patients in clinic and get clinical bloods early. Posters are available to raise the profile of the trial in clinic areas.

2. Discuss the trial with Pre-assessment bookings clerk and explain why it may be helpful for some patients to have their pre-assessment appointments earlier.

3. Patients like to know that their surgeon/ anaesthetist is supporting the trial. Ask them to speak briefly to any potential patients explaining that the hospital is supporting the trial.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. *Baseline bloods – can the results be from different days?*

A. Yes, as long as the bloods are not older than 4 weeks prior to randomisation, blood results can be taken on different days.

Q. *CRP (C-reactive protein) - how do you enter a non-numeric result, e.g. if the result comes back as <5?*

A. You should enter the number 5, but then in the notes section on that form you should state that the exact answer for CRP was <5.

Baseline bloods – if any of the tests weren't done (e.g. not part of routine care) then please record which test wasn't done and why in the 'Notes' section of the relevant form. Then We will then know not the query why the result is missing. The only exception is for results which are part of the inclusion/exclusion criteria, as these tests should always be carried out (e.g. Hb, ALT/AST).

Meet the PREVENTT Team

This Month: Ben Clevenger, Research Fellow

Ben is a speciality registrar in anaesthesia based in the North Central School of Anaesthesia of the London Deanery. He is currently taking a period of out of programme research, undertaking an MD (Res) at University College London on the subject of patient blood management and liver transplantation. His clinical interests include anaesthesia for major surgery, including liver transplantation, and the intraoperative management of transfusion and haemostasis. Outside of medicine he is a triathlete and keen cyclist. Ben will be working with the trials team to help support our recruiting centres and those in set up and providing assistance with medical queries.

Short Course in Clinical Trials

The Medical Statistics Department (MSD) at LSHTM will be running a short course in clinical trials.
The course will provide attendees with a clear understanding of the essentials of phase III Randomised Controlled Clinical Trials (RCTs).
Lectures and practical sessions cover the key issues in designing and conducting RCTs.
Topics that are addressed are both relevant to the public sector and the pharmaceutical industry.
The course is relevant to those who are keen to gain understanding of the rigorous evaluation of interventions in health care including health care workers, research managers and other scientists with an interest in this field.
Places on the course are limited.
The course runs for 5 days from 16th to 20th June 2014.
For Further information and application form, please visit http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/sct.html

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