

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 5

DECEMBER 2013

We now have

51
patients!**A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL RECRUITERS**

We are delighted to report that, thanks to the efforts of OSAC clinicians, we have reached the milestone of 50 patients (the golden patient was recruited by Sarah Gallagher at Hatherley Surgery in Cheltenham). This is proof in the form of pudding (Christmas pudding of course) that OSAC recruitment really works and that, based on current rates of recruitment for active sites, the trial is on track to recruit to target as long as more of our sites come on board. This was the considered view of the Trial Steering Committee and Data Monitoring Committee at their recent meetings. 15 sites have now started recruiting, and we would like to encourage the 19 sites that are all set up but have not yet recruited to give it a go in the New Year, if not before. Please let us know if you would like refresher training.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR OSAC OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

OSAC trial recruitment will close on 20 December 2013, i.e. **Friday 20 December is the last day** on which a patient can be consented into the trial, though you can still enter eCRF data after this date. Recruitment will open again from **Friday 3 January 2014**. If any OSAC queries (including data entry queries) or patient safety issues arise during the holiday period please contact the Trial Manager by email (harriet.downing@bristol.ac.uk). Emails will be checked daily.

Monitoring for Serious Adverse Events will still take place over the period, and if you become aware of a SAE experienced by an OSAC patient please follow the safety reporting procedure explained at your training session and included in your site file (instructions can also be found on the trial website: <http://www.osactrial.org.uk/researchers.php#9>). If in doubt, email Harriet.

Patient follow-up will be suspended over Christmas and New Year, as we don't want to interrupt patients' festivities. Over the last couple of weeks Sue Harris (Trial Research Nurse) has explained to all patients whose follow-up telephone calls will be due in this period that they will be contacted as soon as possible after the New Year. Patients have been asked to continue to complete their Symptom Diary, and they will be able to contact Sue if they have any urgent queries or concerns.

Thank you!

**THE ONLINE SYMPTOM DIARY AND TELEPHONE CALLS**

The OSAC online Symptom Diary is now ready and waiting for patients who want to use this option. If your patient prefers to do the diary online, please could you ensure that they are aware that **they will still receive the weekly telephone calls**, and check that they are **willing and available** to speak to Sue or Kate, once a week for 4 weeks.

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

No Christmas newsletter can be complete without some rubbish Christmas jokes. Here are some seasonal offerings to lighten the mood when your mother-in-law discovers that the sweater she gave you last year is now lining the dog basket.

Q. What is the best Christmas present in the world?

A. A broken drum... you can't beat it!

Q. What did one snowman say to the other snowman?

A. "Can you smell carrot?"

Q. What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

A. Tinselitis.

Q. What is green and warty, covered with tinsel and goes "Ribbit, ribbit"?

A. A mistle-toad.

Q. Who is impossible to overtake at Christmas?

A. The Three Wide Men.



DATA ENTRY AND THE SCREENING ID

On the first ('General') tab of the CRF1 data entry screen (face-to-face eligibility assessment) either enter the number from the small, lilac Screening ID label OR (if you are doing direct online data entry) leave this field blank.

If you choose to leave the field blank, the database will automatically generate a Screening ID for the patient.

The Screening ID allocated by the database will be displayed once you have completed the 'General', 'Inclusion', and 'Exclusion' tabs for CRF1, and clicked on the button within the 'Submit' tab.

The Screening ID will be displayed below the yellow box area, as follows: **"Thank you, results have been saved for Participant ZZZz"** (ZZzz would be the Screening ID).

FANTASTIC FOLLOW-UP The two key questions for OSAC are how bad are the patient's symptoms in the first week, and how long does their cough go on for. For the patients we've followed up so far, we have the answer to the first question for 91%, and the answer to the second for 87%.

NEXT DAY RECRUITMENT UPDATE

We still do not have MHRA approval for recruitment on the next working day following the GP consultation.

Bah, humbug!!!

Watch this space though, as we expect approval to come through early in the New Year.



Last chance to...

The end of the old year is a time to reflect on those opportunities that have come our way... And those that we might so easily have lost. Let not the last opportunity to recruit an OSAC patient in 2013 pass you by!

But if it must, we hope you will take advantage of the plentiful opportunities to recruit patients in January and February, when we expect that (sadly for patients, but not for evil researchers like us) many more people will be suffering with a horrible cough.



Ho, ho, ho!

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