



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 9

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The Goal
326
to
436

We are here
217

NEED SOME EGGSTRA INSPIRATION? OSAC trial recruitment is open again from Wednesday 23rd April. We hope you have had a very enjoyable Easter break, and that the Easter Bunny was good to you. In fact, we can think of an excellent way to work off that extra energy if the Easter Bunny was particularly generous this year. It involves a little bit of patient screening, consenting and data collection...



But see below, for how close we are to the finishing post. We look forward to checking the fax machine this week in the hopes of renewed recruitment inspiration!

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WE ARE ALMOST ALMOST THERE

The OSAC Trial Statistician has reviewed the required sample size and concluded that, assuming we maintain the current excellent rates of patient follow-up, we need to recruit between 326 and 436 patients in order to be able to answer the research question (can oral steroids reduce the duration and severity of symptoms of acute chest infections in adults). With 215 patients currently randomised, **we are tantalisingly close** to the lower end of the target, 326. That means that we need **a minimum of only 109 more patients** to be able to answer the research question. Getting towards the higher end of the target can only improve the level of confidence we have in our findings, from 80% to 90%.

With a post-Easter push on OSAC recruitment, we can (with your help) ensure that this exciting trial is successfully completed. On behalf of the OSAC research team, I would like to ask you to renew your recruitment efforts or, if you have not started recruiting, get in touch and we'll do our best to support you in getting on board with OSAC for the crucial remaining next few months.



DON'T FORGET

- To complete your temperature monitoring log weekly;
- To check the notes of any patients recruited within the last four weeks for SAEs;
- To complete your drug accountability log each time you receive packs or issue a pack to a patient.



CONTACT US...

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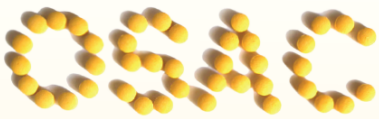
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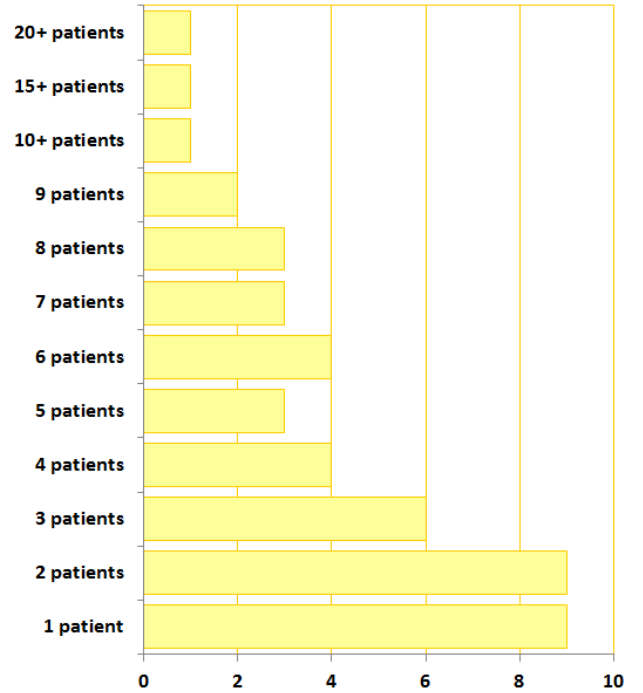
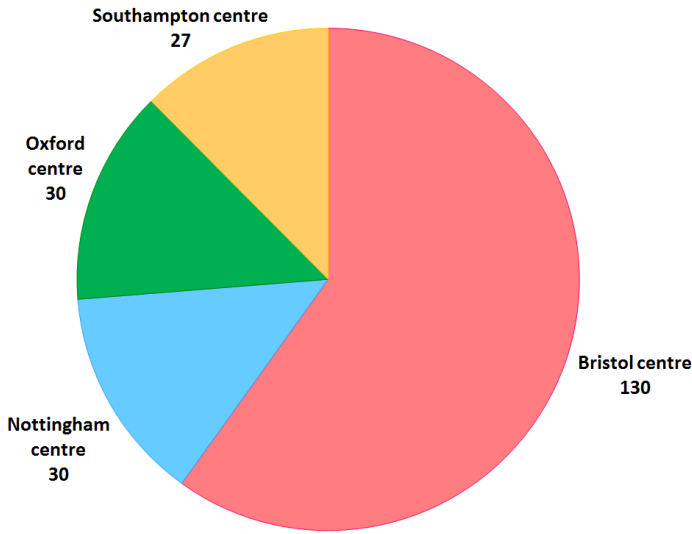
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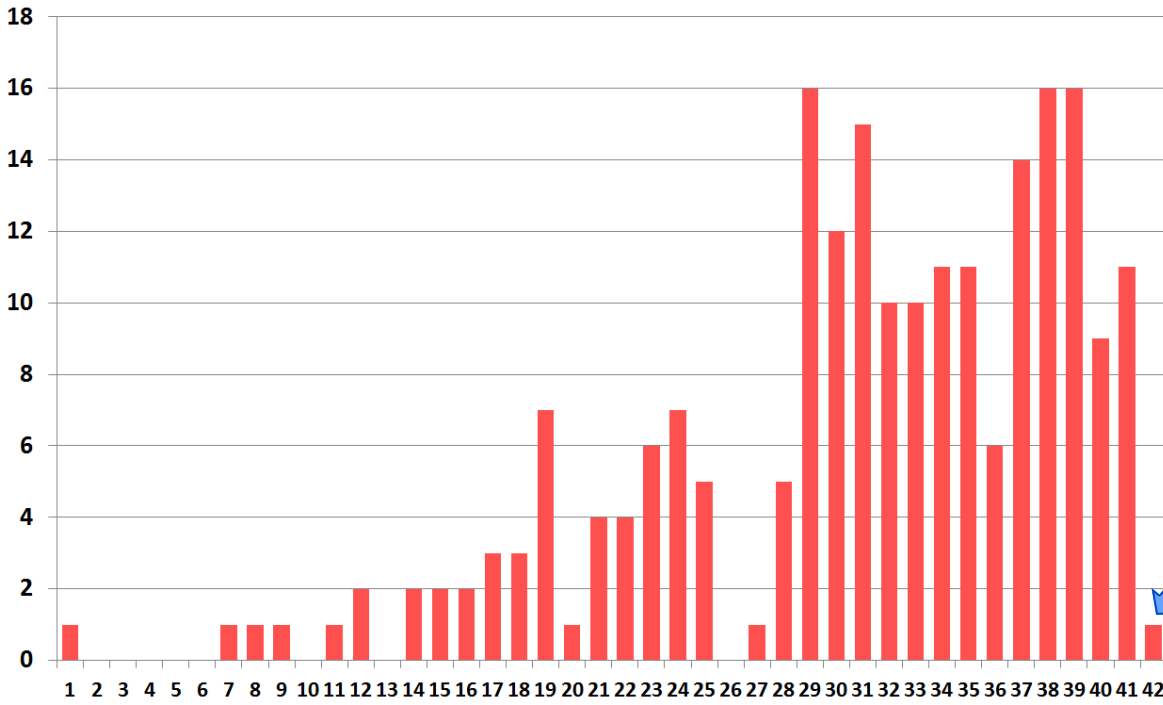
OSAC VITAL STATISTICS

For the few who love statistics, and for the many who might find these charts interesting, here are some figures describing OSAC recruitment progress to date.



1. Number and proportion of patients recruited within each of the trial centres (Bristol, Nottingham, Oxford and Southampton).

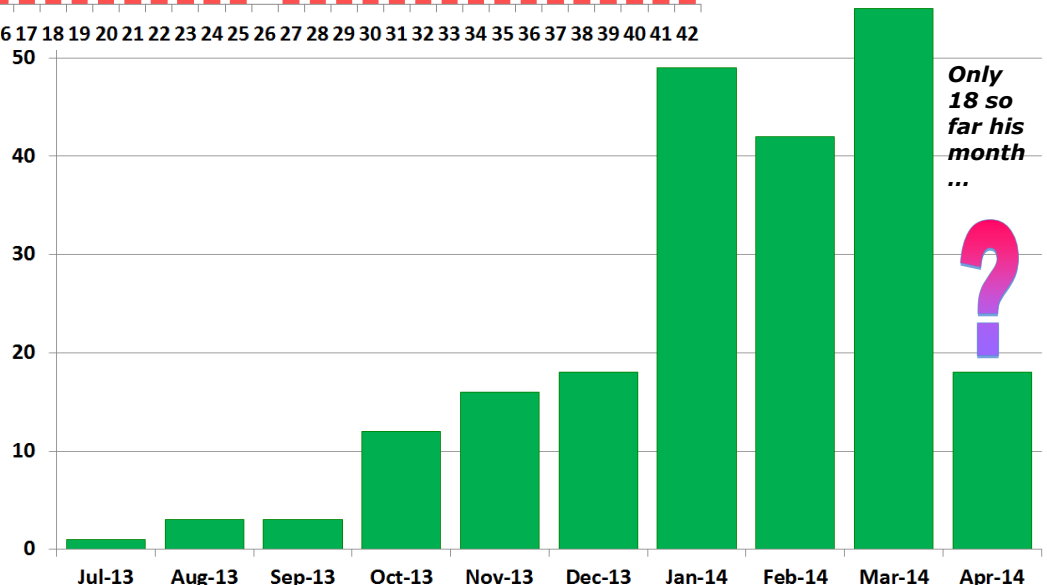
2. Number of sites (horizontal axis) which have recruited a particular number of patients (vertical axis)



3. Number of patients (vertical axis) per week of OSAC trial recruitment (horizontal axis), starting in July 2013.



4. Number of patients (vertical axis) per month of OSAC trial recruitment (horizontal axis), starting in July 2013.



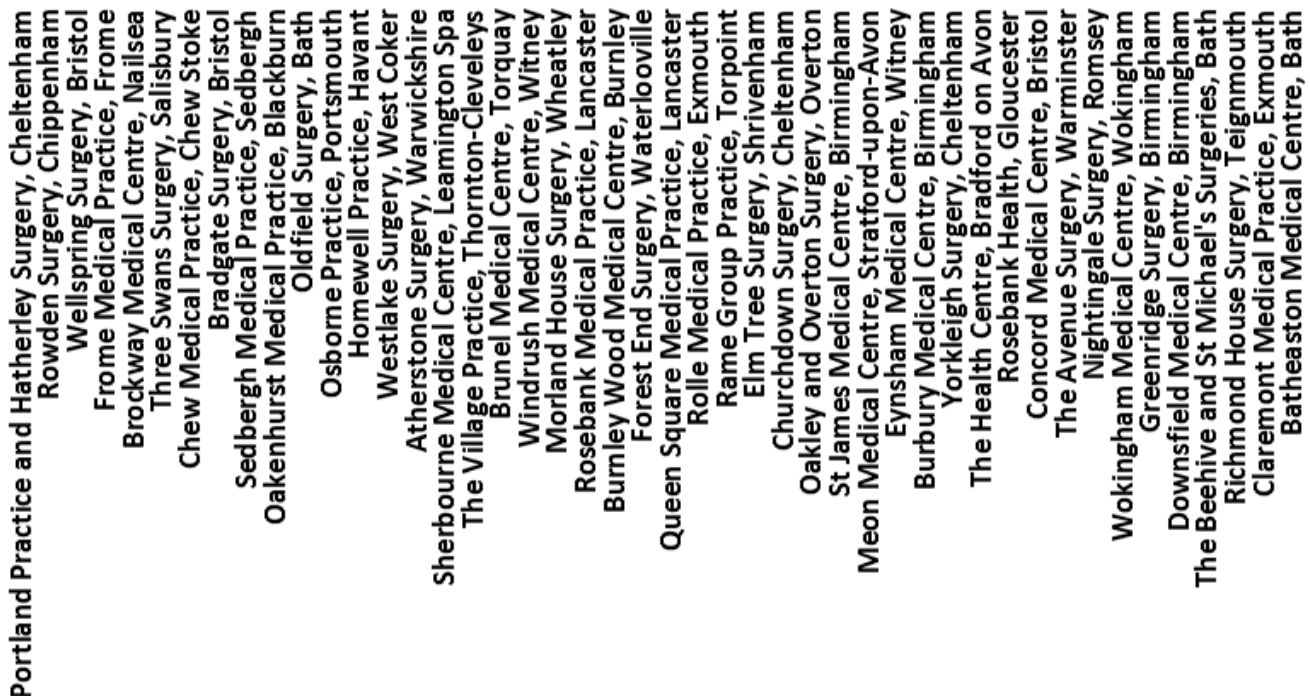
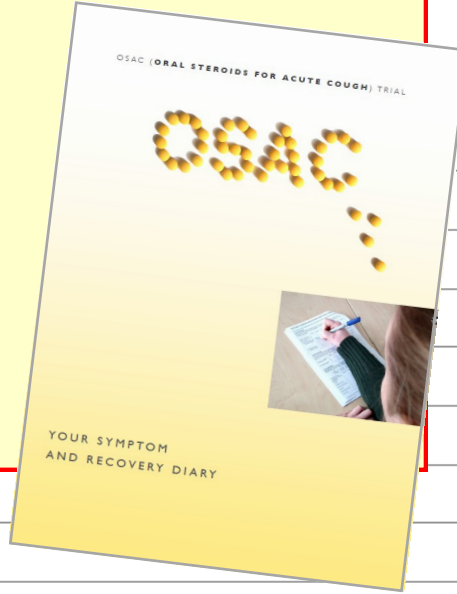
Only 18 so far this month ...





**POLITE REQUEST TO RECRUITERS
PLEASE ASK PATIENT TO BE PATIENT WITH
THE SYMPTOM DIARY**

We have recently had a few patients who thought that they should stop recording their peak flow and scoring their symptoms on Day 5, when they finish their tablets. We don't want them to do this! We know it is a big ask of patients, but we would be very grateful if you could ask them to keep on completing their symptom diary, and not send it back until they have spoken with Sue or Kate and received the go-ahead to stop recording and/or post the diary back.



5. Number of patients recruited by each participating GP practice