

POPs Study

Dear Colleagues,

We are asking you to consider referring your patients to a trial site involved in the POP study.

As you all know we, under the auspices of BSPAR have been undertaking the POP study since 2007.

Due to devolution, a change in R&D structures etc setting up of centres has been slow. As a result the last centre was only initiated a few months ago.

Recruitment has been slow. Initially we believed we would need to recruit 270 to allow for significant dropout. However retention has been excellent and revised power calculation by the statistician means that we need 216.

We have received extension funding from the ARC which allows us to recruit until the end of August 2010.

Despite our best efforts recruitment remains below that anticipated and is currently sitting at 140. We thus need to recruit 76 patients in the remaining six months

It is critical that this study succeeds, both for the benefit of our children but also to show the ARC that we can, as a community, complete studies they fund.

I am asking (begging) existing PIs to make one final push to recruit over the last six months.

We are also asking any colleagues in BSPAR with children about to start or on steroids to consider referring them to existing centres. We will pay for travel.

Currently we have nine centres. If all pushed for 2 recruits per month then we will comfortably meet our target. Centres are currently recruiting at one per month (with a couple well below this). With help from BSPAR colleagues referring as many patients as you can, we can meet our target.

Details of the nearest recruiting centre to you with email addresses are in the attached document

We will update you monthly on progress.

Very many thanks for your help. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Madeleine Rooney

CI POPS on behalf of BSPAR