January Newsletter

Happy New Year. This is the first of our quarterly newsletters updating participants and research partners on the DEEP study. The study has started incredibly well meeting our recruitment targets for each of the first few months and we would like to thank all involved for participating in what we believe is a very important piece of research. As always please feel free to contact us should you have any queries about the study or your involvement. Our contact details are below.

Dr Justin Durham—Chief Investigator

Meet the team

Left to right: Matt Breckons (Research Associate), Susan Bissett (Research Dental Hygienist), Kerry Stone (Research Dental Nurse), Justin Durham (Chief Investigator).

About the DEEP study

DEEP stands for Developing Effective and Efficient care Pathways in chronic pain. Focussing on pain affecting the face or mouth, we are aiming to gain an understanding of people’s journey through the health service, learning more about their experiences and how this can be improved.

We are recruiting people from dental and GP practices as well as from hospital clinics. People can take part if they have been experiencing pain for more than 3 months and this pain is not from their teeth for example toothache, gum boil, abscess, gum disease etc.

We have recruited 52 people so far and we need to recruit a total of 240 people to the study over the next 18 months (see graph below).

Recruitment target

Letter of support

I fully support the DEEP study that is investigating the personal and economic costs of pain affecting the face or mouth. This work is indeed important because the impact of these conditions on the lives of those affected is great and has been poorly researched and therefore, poorly understood. The fact that you are investigating these issues specifically from the perspective of the “experts” in the condition - the patients - is laudable.

Terry Cowley
President and Co-founder,
The TMJ Association

Frequently asked questions

What does taking part involve?
Taking part in the study will involve completing questionnaires at several points over 24 months.

How will the results be used?
The results will allow us to build a picture of people’s care and find out what changes would improve outcomes both from a patient and health service perspective.

My pain has improved, do you still want me to take part?
Yes — It’s really important that we hear from a range of people so that we get a complete understanding of their different experiences.

For more information you can visit the study website: http://research.ncl.ac.uk/deepstudy/

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