Welcome to our second quarterly newsletter. The study continues to progress well although slightly slower in recruiting patients from primary care (general medical and dental practices) than secondary care (hospital-based). The team have been finalising the first patient-based measure to assess the success of treatment in Temporomandibular Disorders (TMDs) and this was presented at a recent international conference creating a lot of interest from other countries. The lack of such a measure has been cited in many different papers as one of the reasons high quality trials of treatment for TMDs do not exist at present so it is a real step forward in designing and conducting such trials which will then give us better and more evidence based treatments for TMDs. In this newsletter we have tried to highlight two studies from other teams in the UK that we thought may be of interest to you.

Dr Justin Durham—Chief Investigator

Relevant research

We thought you might like to hear about some other interesting research relating to chronic facial pain.

Facial pain image wins prize
An image designed to assist patient-professional communication about facial pain has won a prize at an art competition held by the British Pain Society. The image (left) is part of research looking into how images can influence dialogue during medical consultations. More information can be found in the British Dental Journal Vol 213 No. 3. Available from: www.nature.com/bdj/journal/v213/n3/full/sj.bdj.2012.681.html

Patient satisfaction with chronic pain assessment
A study looked at levels of satisfaction in chronic facial pain patients after a consultation at an outpatient facial pain unit. Findings suggested that a consultation which had plenty time for history taking, addressed patient goals and included a thorough explanation accompanied by written information resulted in the highest levels of satisfaction.


We have recruited 102 people so far and we need to recruit a total of 240 people to the study over the next 15 months. The graph above shows anticipated and actual recruitment.

Interviews

We are currently beginning to carry out telephone interviews with some people who are taking part in the DEEP study. The aim of these interviews is to get a detailed understanding of the experience of using health services for chronic pain.

Alongside the completed questionnaires you have been sending back, this information will help us to understand the importance of different points in people’s care which we will use to make recommendations to which services can be improved.

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