



The BHF SENIOR-RITA Trial Newsletter

Issue 7: September 2017

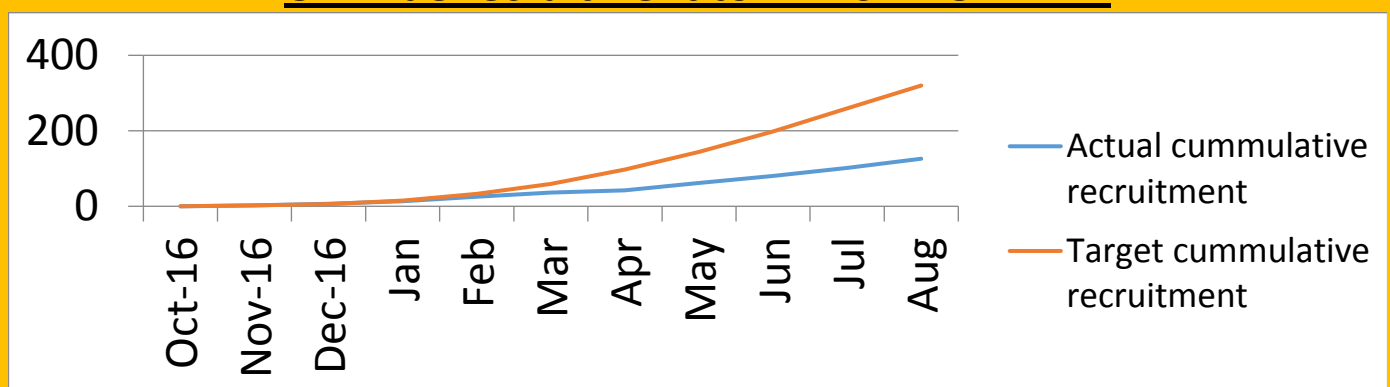


Dear SENIOR-RITA Investigators and Team,

Welcome to the September issue of the SENIOR-RITA Newsletter.

- ✚ We are delighted that **all 30 sites across UK** are now open for recruitment.
- ✚ We are in the process of including **another 10 new sites** to SENIOR-RITA.
- ✚ Having invested our efforts in opening sites thus far, we are now pushing forward with recruitment. We are already witnessing a significant improvement in our recruitment.
- ❖ Recruiting high-risk frail older patients to clinical research is challenging. However, our previous experience in recruiting this cohort of patients has proved positive as often older patients feel they want to give something back by participating in research studies that will help future patients just like them.
- ❖ Our population is rapidly ageing and now is the time to investigate better treatments for these patients who have previously been underrepresented in clinical research. Thus SENIOR-RITA is a timely trial and **let's give our patients the opportunity to take part!**
- ❖ We are very grateful to all our SENIOR-RITA site teams across the country for your commitment, dedication and hard work so far.
- ❖ We request that all SENIOR-RITA teams **prioritise SENIOR-RITA** to eligible patients at your sites. Given now the summer break is over we hope you have returned refreshed and invigorated to drive recruitment to SENIOR-RITA, especially in the coming winter months which are likely to see increased numbers of NSTEMI presentations.
- ❖ Our target is **20 patients/week**, with 30 sites recruiting we feel this is achievable.

UK wide recruitment to BHF SENIOR-RITA



- ✚ Feedback from recruiting sites has revealed that the main barrier to recruitment has been **clinical decision-making** rather than patient/carers willingness to participate.
- ✚ This highlights the importance of screening and seeing eligible patients early, soon after the point of presentation and getting key clinical decision makers up to speed with SENIOR-RITA.

Working together as **Newcastle Academic Health Partners**

BHF SENIOR-RITA: Strategies to Boost Local Recruitment

Direct site support including site visits and teleconferences

A direct line (**0191 282 6710**) has been set up to help troubleshoot with clinical queries including SAEs, site recruitment performance, randomisation, data collection and follow-up queries.

Junior doctor training

Junior doctors are integral members of the team to identify eligible patients. The majority of junior doctors rotate every 4 months, as part of their induction to cardiology and acute medical rotations we ask that they are introduced to the research team, updated about the inclusion/exclusion criteria and informed of the local referral pathway for BHF SENIOR RITA.

Lay guidance sheets

The way BHF SENIOR-RITA is explained to patients is vital to successful recruitment. The lay summary gives research staff a great framework to explain the study to patients at first contact.

Flexible protocol and follow-up

BHF SENIOR-RITA is designed to be flexible to both patients and clinicians. Patient safety and decision making are priority. Patients randomised to either arm can have changes in treatment plan at any stage as long as the reasons for doing so are clearly documented. Follow-up is not mandated and can be tailored for individual patients. Primary objectives data can be gathered from ONS and HES.

Posters/stickers

We ask sites to use BHF SENIOR-RITA posters in clinical areas and eligibility stickers to raise the profile of the trial at the site.

At the bedside

We ask that when approaching patients that the consultation is conducted with **equipoise** and involving the patients' **relatives/carers** when possible. We have found that patients and family are more receptive when inspired to take part. This can be achieved by emphasising that the study is:

- **Funded by the British Heart Foundation**
- **It is the largest study of its kind across the world**
- **It is based in the UK with 40 participating centers**
- **The study is widely publicized; receiving media and press attention**
- **The findings will directly impact on guidelines and identify better treatments**

Local champions as per Clinical Research Network area

We are in the process of identifying SENIOR-RITA local champions (PI or Research Nurse) who will promote the trial in their regions.

THE BHF SENIOR-RITA TRIAL SITE LEVEL RECRUITMENT UPDATE

Site	Principal Investigator	Opened to recruitment	Total no. screened	Monthly Site target	Recruited to Date
Newcastle	Dr Vijay Kunadian	31-Oct-16	92	8	31
Northumbria Healthcare	Dr Craig Runnet	27-Mar-17	44	2	18
North Tees	Dr Justin Carter	23-Feb-17	21	2	16
South Tees	Dr David Austin	02-Dec-16	58	1	15
Sheffield	Prof Rob Storey	25-Jan-17	55	4	14
Chesterfield	Dr Paul Sheridan (interim)	30-Nov-16	47	2	10
Blackpool	Dr Gavin Galasko	15-Nov-16	42	2	6
Edinburgh	Prof Dave Newby	01-Dec-16	115	4	6
Basildon	Dr Rajesh Aggarwal	02-Dec-16	22	1	6
South Tyneside	Dr Abdul Nasser	16-Dec-16	19	3	5
Ayrshire & Arran	Dr Vera Lennie	22-Mar-17	17	2	5
Lincoln	Dr Kelvin Lee	27-Jan-17	11	1	4
Mid-Essex	Dr Gerald Clesham	30-May-17	3	1	4
Surrey & Sussex	Dr Shrilla Banerjee	02-Jun-17	26	1	4
Co Durham & Darlington	Prof Jerry Murphy	23-Jun-17	28	2	4
South Manchester	Dr Hussain Contractor	15-Mar-17	34	2	2
Torbay & South Devon	Dr Dirk Felmeden	12-Jun-17	33	2	2
Royal Free	Dr Roby Rakhit	03-Jul-17	10	1	2
Gateshead	Dr Ray Meleady	09-Dec-16	31	4	1
East Sussex	Dr Robert Gerber	21-Feb-17	33	1	1
Royal Alexandra	Dr Keith Robertson	28-Feb-17	62	2	1
Lanarkshire	Dr Ross McGeoch	30-Mar-17	0	5	1
Plymouth	Dr David Sarkar	15-May-17	21	1	1
Borders	Dr Paul Neary	02-Jun-17	4	2	1
Imperial	Dr Rasha Al-Lamee	22-Aug-17	2	1	1
York	Dr Chris Gale	31-Aug-17	10	1	1
Derby	Dr Damian Kelly	19-Sep-17	1	1	1
Royal Berkshire	Dr Charlie McKenna	03-Jul-17	4	3	0
North Cumbria	Dr Louise Buchanan	31-Jul-17	0	1	0
Epsom & St Helier	Dr Usha Prasad	04-Aug-17	8	5	0
TOTAL			853		163

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The SENIOR-RITA website: <https://research.ncl.ac.uk/seniorrita/> TWITTER @SNR_RITA_Trial

Working together as Newcastle Academic Health Partners

BHF SENIOR-RITA Site Visits: Northumbria and South Tyneside

Northumbria Healthcare 
NHS Foundation Trust



Left to right: Dr Mcleod, Dr Doig, Dr Runnett (PI), Dr Kunadian (CI), Dr Ripley and Dr Nath.

South Tyneside 
NHS Foundation Trust



Left to right bottom: Dr Jhagra, Dr Nasser (PI), Medical student, Beverley Stidolph, Top row: Dr Whittaker, Dr Ahmed, Dr Newson, Dr Richardson, Dr Roy, Dr Woodhouse, Miss Dodd, Miss Colwill

We have been undertaking site visits to meet with our investigators and their teams in person.

Northumbria Healthcare:

Dr Runnett and his colleagues are the second highest recruiters to SENIOR-RITA in the UK.

What is behind their successful recruitment?

- ✚ A streamlined daily screening process ensures all eligible patients are identified.
- ✚ A consultant-body led recruitment approach has inspired juniors and patients alike to support the SENIOR RITA study.
- ✚ Nurse led consent is being introduced to maximise recruitment

South Tyneside General Hospital:

- ✚ Dr. Nasser and his team have found that a successful recruitment strategy has come through use of their dedicated cardiology registrars and coronary heart disease specialist nurses.
- ✚ To tackle the problem of early clinical decision making, Dr. Nasser and his team plan to update their A&E and Acute Medical consultant and junior colleagues about SENIOR RITA to improve referral rates.
- ✚ Beverley Stidolph lead research nurse will undertake nurse led consent training to enable further recruitment.

Please mark your diaries for the upcoming SENIOR RITA meetings:

- ✚ Site teleconference: October 2017 (Date TBC)
- ✚ Investigator meetings during:
BCIS ACI 2018- London Hilton Metropole



BCS 2018- Manchester



- ✚ Be sure to check our weekly updates on Monday mornings and answers to FAQs