



STITCH (Trauma) NEWSLETTER



Surgical Trial in Traumatic Intracerebral Haemorrhage

Spring 2011

Issue 5

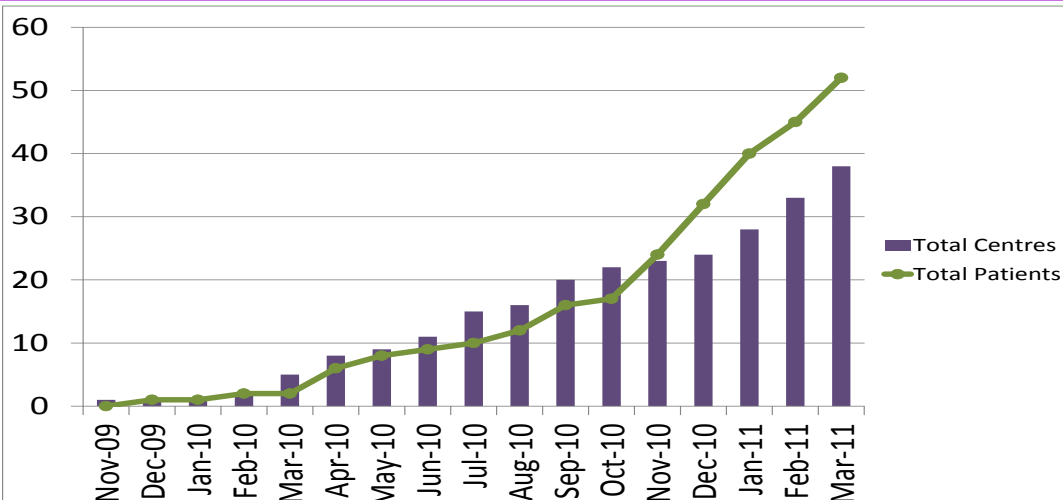
Springing forward with STITCH (Trauma)

The new year has been spectacular for STITCH (Trauma), with 8 patients recruited in January, 5 patients recruited in February and 7 patients in March!

High recruitment rates over the next quarter will be critical to the future of the trial, as we really need to see an average of 12 patients per month.

To help us achieve this, we have recruited 13 new centres since December 2010, and have made a protocol change that should give every centre a greater chance of recruiting patients!

52 patients now recruited!



Protocol Change

As a result of suggestions made by several of our invaluable site investigators, the STITCH (Trauma) management team have initiated a protocol change.

This has increased the permitted time, from injury to randomisation, from 24 hours to 48 hours.

The impact of this has already been felt, allowing for 3 patients to be included, who otherwise would have been excluded.

Inclusion Criteria

- Adults aged 14 or over.
- Evidence of 1 or 2 TICHs or contusions with a confluent volume of attenuation significantly raised above that of the background white and grey matter that has a total volume greater than 10mls (calculated by width x height x length / 2 in cm).
- Within 48 hours of head injury.
- Clinical equipoise: only patients for whom the responsible neurosurgeon is uncertain about the benefits of either treatment are eligible.

Exclusion Criteria

- A significant surface haematoma (EDH or SDH) requiring surgery.
- Three or more separate haematomas fulfilling inclusion criteria.
- If surgery cannot be performed within 12 hours of randomisation.
- If the haemorrhage/ contusion is located in the cerebellum.
- Severe pre-existing physical or mental disability or severe co-morbidity which would lead to a poor outcome even if the patient made a full recovery from the head injury.
- Permanent residence outside a study country preventing follow up.
- Patient and/or relative has a strong preference for one treatment modality.

Those centres who have joined us since December 2010 are highlighted above in green.

The STITCH (Trauma) Investigators meeting will be held on 2nd May in Newcastle upon Tyne during the Joint EANS – 4th World ICH Conference.
<http://www2.kenes.com/eans-ich/Pages/Home.aspx>

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