



18th December 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are keeping well in these challenging times.

As you know, some hospitals have returned to a variable level of “normality”, including non-urgent surgery on children with cerebral palsy. After a pandemic-imposed pause we reopened the CP-in-BOSS study in August and most centres are again set up to recruit children (Figure 1). We also welcome 2 new sites to the team since October.

The numbers are slowly increasing and we have recruited 64 patients, which is encouraging under the circumstances. However, as the graph in Figure 2 shows, we are not currently on target to reach the magic number of 100 by the end of March 2021, when recruitment is currently scheduled to finish.

CP-in-BOSS is an excellent opportunity to set the foundations for future research in gait-improvement CP surgery. For this reason it is in everyone’s interest to make the most of this study. We need to maximise recruitment despite the present conditions. I am sure you will all do your best to bring in the numbers and reach the target of 100 patients.

Please keep an eye out for potential candidates and do not forget that we are recruiting children who are theoretical candidates for multi-level surgery, irrespective of whether surgery is pursued or not. All children (5-16yrs) referred for multi-level surgery should be included as part of the service evaluation and approached for consent at an appropriate time. Please look at your clinic lists to see if there are any appropriate candidates.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with either myself or Jamie van Santen (cpboss@ndorms.ox.ac.uk) if you have any questions or queries.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the Festive Season.

Tim Theologis

Figure 1 – Recruitment by Site

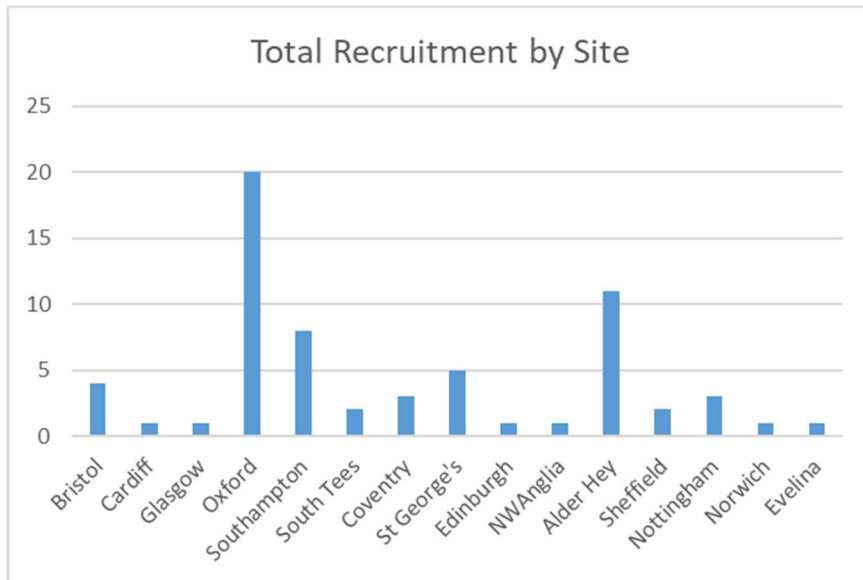


Figure 2 – Total long term and monthly recruitment

