

December Newsletter

Introduction to our Network:

As the lead clinician for the DeNDRoN South Coast Network I am very keen to see it facilitate dementia and neurodegenerative disease research in the region.

As with any NHS project there has been a deal of bureaucracy to get through to get this idea off the ground but the ethos of DeNDRoN is simple.

Our aim is to try and increase the availability of clinical trials across the South Coast, both to allow access to research and potential new treatments to more patients and to involve more clinicians so that experience of new drugs is more equitably distributed throughout the region.

Of course the secondary national agenda is to ensure that the Pharma industry invest in the NHS 'plc' which has always been an internationally important place for clinical research as we can supply good quality data on well diagnosed and monitored patients and it is important that clinical trials are not all undertaken in the third world or Eastern Europe.

Our aim, then, is to find interested clinicians who can act as the catalyst to allow us to develop research centres round the region by providing the training and study staff to get things going, from DeNDRoN initially, with the hope that local interest and funding will then take over. If you are someone interested in doing that in the field of clinical trials in dementia then I hope we can work with you to achieve that end.

David Wilkinson – Clinical Lead

Our New Network Manager Says:

Welcome to the first issue of our Newsletter for Professionals. The aim at this stage is simply to keep in touch with everyone who has expressed an interest in DeNDRoN South Coast and the research trials it is involved with.

We provide a brief overview of current trials – please contact us if you require more information.

DeNDRoN South Coast is very keen to build strong and lasting relationships by developing good communications so we are very keen to hear from you with any comments/questions you may have and also key points that you would like covered in future newsletters.

You will also be receiving, in the very near future, an invitation to the official Launch of DeNDRoN South Coast

Solent Hotel on the 26th March 08.

In the meantime on behalf of our team, I wish you a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Sandra (Lawton) – Network Manager
Email: Sandra.lawton@hantspt-sw.nhs.uk
Tel: 023 8047 5865

Current Adopted Trials:

Parkinson's Disease Trials:

PD MED- Large randomised assessment of the relative cost-effectiveness of different classes of drugs for PD. Questionnaire based trial for both patients and carers to gauge how caring for a PD patient affects home life.

PD GEN- Parkinson's Disease DNA Bank. This is an additional part of the PD MED trial.

PIT:STOPP – Physiotherapy based trial managing everyday activities.

Dementia trials:

Essence AD – Placebo controlled aromatherapy trial comparing Melissa oil with oral donepezil in the treatment of mild agitation in Alzheimer's Disease.

HTA-SADD- (co-adopted with MHRN) – A definitive multi-centre pragmatic RCT of the clinical and cost effectiveness of mirtazepine and sertraline versus placebo for the treatment of depression in dementia presenting in secondary care

GSK Reflect – RCT to investigate the effects of rosiglitazone er tablets as adjunctive therapy to AChEI's on cognition and overall clinical response in APOE e4-stratified patients with mild-moderate Alzheimer's disease.

GSK - RCT to ascertain the effects of rosiglitazone er tablets or donepezil versus placebo on cognition, function and overall clinical response as a function of APOE e-4 allele status in patients with Alzheimer's disease.

EHE – To assess the costs of care, objective and subjective caregiver burden and quality of life in relation to disease severity measured by cognitive function, ADL capabilities and presence of behavioural disturbances.

SIROCCO – A RCT with 3 oral dose groups of AZD3480 or donepezil during 12 weeks treatment in patients with AD.

BRAINz – A randomised, oral donepezil controlled study on the safety and efficacy of repeated monthly SC injections of a SR implant of ZT-1 in patients with moderate AD.

DOMINO AD – Trial to determine whether treatment with donepezil, memantine or memantine and donepezil in combination is better than placebo in people with AD who have reached the moderate to severe stage of illness.

DeNDRoN South Coast Coordinating Team

David Wilkinson – Clinical Lead
Helen Roberts – Deputy Clinical Lead
Sandra Lawton – Network Manager
Karen Carnell – Lead Research Nurse AD
Vanessa Pressly – Lead Research Nurse PD
Liz James - PA