

Audit matters

I was delighted that so many people (18) attended the first open meeting. The BPNA audit group is a non bureaucratic supportive affiliation of people keen to pursue some multi centre studies and develop guidelines and care paths. At the moment there is no specific funding to help this although I hope in the future there may be some administrative support for these activities from the BPNA secretariat. A list of topics either established or proposed and one or two main contact people for anyone who is interested in helping, contributing or finding out more follows:

1. Audit of first seizure clinic attendance:

See last newsletter for details.

Contact - Dr W Whitehouse

2. Child's Glasgow Coma Scale:

See last newsletter for details.

Contact - Dr Whitehouse, Dr Fennella Kirkham (Southampton), Janet Eyre (Newcastle). Further updated revised version (BPNA 2000), is enclosed in the newsletter. The group is currently writing a short paper on use and interpretation of The Child's Glasgow Coma Scale and how to recognise brain stem herniation syndromes. This will be ready later this year.

3. Management of Convulsive Status Epilepticus/Acute seizures in A & E

See previous newsletter for details. Further revision of this guideline is enclosed in the newsletter (BPNA 2000). A paper outlining the development of this and its evidence base has been submitted to Archives of Disease of Childhood. Contact Richard Appleton (Liverpool) or Tim Martland (Manchester) for further details.

4. Dancing Eye Syndrome (Opsoclonus myoclonus).

Prospective audit of cases proposed by Mike Pike (Oxford) and John Wilson (Great Ormond Street). Those interested please contact Mike Pike.

5. Guillain Barre Syndrome in Children.

It was proposed to develop a care path and audit outcome. Richard Appleton (Liverpool) will chair a small working group, more information should be available in the next newsletter.

6. Ketogenic Diet: Nutritional and Biochemical Effects:

A small group based on British dietitians interest group have started to share protocols, problems and expertise and are piloting an audit tool (see abstract by Wassmer E, et al, this years meeting: Dev.Med.Child Neurol 1999;41:S82;32). Contact William Whitehouse or Evangaline Wassmer (Birmingham) for further information.

7. Benign (Idiopathic) intra cranial hypertension:

It is proposed to start a prospective audit of this topic, Richard Robinson (Guy's) Fennella Kirkham (Southampton), Cathy White (Swansea) have expressed an interest so far. Contact William Whitehouse for further information.

A number of other topics were mentioned briefly, however there was not enough time at this meeting to develop them but you are all very welcome to get together and do your own thing!

Other News:

I was delighted that the council of the BPNA has endorsed the first two guidelines produced by our group over the last four years (the Child's Glasgow Coma Scale and the guidelines for Management of Convulsive Status Epilepticus).

We will send updates to you in the newsletter, I will also be posting these on the BPNA and PIER websites, they will be submitted for publication in Archives of Disease of Childhood and after that we will seek endorsement by the RCPCH.

Congratulations to Fennella Kirkham, Sarah Aylett and Andrew Williams whose prospective study of cerebro vascular disease/stroke and stroke like illness in childhood has, after a lot of work, and many hurdles, been adopted by the BPSU.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and productive and clinically effective New Year.

William Whitehouse

Tel 0121 333 8149; Fax 0121 333 5151

E-mail:

william.whitehouse@bhamchildrens.wmids.nhs.uk