

Anaesthetic Sprint Audit Project (ASAP): Great opportunity for trainees to participate in a national audit project. Register your interest NOW!

Hip fracture is a serious injury in the elderly resulting in significant morbidity and mortality however there is little evidence based medicine to guide perioperative care and controversy exists over optimal anaesthetic management. Large scale randomised controlled trials are difficult to undertake and there is a growing feeling that large scale audits conducted over short period of time (“sprint audit”) may help to establish potential links between management and outcome;

The National Hip Fracture Database (NHFD) is the largest database on proximal femoral fractures and is ideally suited to gathering information on a huge number of cases. The NHS Hip Perioperative Network (HipPeN) is collaborating with the NHFD to conduct a sprint audit to acquire additional perioperative data (type of anaesthesia, co-morbidities, hypotension and bone cement implantation syndrome) and outcome (case-mixed adjusted 30 day mortality). Funding is being provided from the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI) via a grant from the National Institute for Academic Anaesthesia (NIAA). It is hoped to gain data on 10 000 cases over a 2 month period in early 2013.

An e-pilot phase is currently on-going in 10 hospitals (Gloucester Royal Hospital; Leicester Royal Infirmary; Peterborough Hospital; Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan; Royal Berkshire Hospital; Royal Sussex County Hospital; St Peter’s Hospital, Chertsey; University Hospital; Nottingham; Wansbeck General Hospital).

The main goal of ASAP is to strengthen the evidence base for hip fracture anaesthesia, and thus raise the quality and safety of patient care. The project also offers excellent opportunities for trainees to get involved in the implementation of a national audit with the support of their local anaesthetic Hip Fracture Champion, and collecting and uploading of the audit data with the assistance of their hospitals NHFD data collector. In addition to the learning opportunities afforded, trainees who participate will receive a certificate from the ASAP team.

Interested? What to do now:

1. Don’t delay – trainees will be vital to the success of this project, however only one trainee will be needed from each hospital (two from large units).
2. Find out who your local Hip Fracture Champion and the NHFD contact are, in the hospital you will be working in spring 2013, and make contact to express your interest in the project. They should be able to forward your names to the NHFD IT department for your individual access to the database.
3. In case of a problem in identifying the local Hip fracture champions, contact Amer Majeed (Amer.Majeed@gmail.com), HipPeN coordinator. For problem in finding out the NHFD contact, please email fay.plant@nhfd.co.uk.
4. Register with the NHS Hip Fracture Perioperative Network (<http://www.networks.nhs.uk/nhs-networks/hip-fracture-anaesthesia>) to receive up to date information on the ASAP and other HipPeN projects.

The background information here was kindly provided by Dr Richard Griffiths and Dr Amer Majeed of the ASAP Steering Group.