

Update from NRS Reproductive Health and Childbirth Specialty Group

September 2019



Developing a Research Strategy for Male Reproductive Health for Scotland

A successful meeting was conducted in Aberdeen, 23/08/2019 to develop a Research Strategy for Male Reproductive Health for Scotland.

Representatives attended from Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Forth Valley. The group consisted of NHS Clinicians working in Fertility, Clinical academics, Scientists working in the academic field, Andrology and Embryology labs, Fertility nurses, Health psychologists.



Research Questions prioritised:

1. How do you define male infertility?
2. Predictive value of various semen parameters for conception in a couple?
3. Impact of BMI and smoking on semen parameters
4. Antioxidants and impact on semen parameters/ male fertility
5. Impact of in-utero exposures on future male fertility

The biggest hurdle to answer any of these questions (esp. 1&2) was identified as having appropriate data. Although all centres have some sort of database to collect semen analysis, they are not recording details of female partner (on whom outcome is recorded), hence it is difficult to answer even the basic questions.

It was agreed that in the spirit of **One Scotland** approach we should have a single semen analysis request form. It is anticipated that a single form may take some time/ administrative hurdles but if core set of data can be collected by all, it will be easier to answer the research questions posed above.

Core set data should include (along with semen parameters):

- Female partner details
- Smoking, height and weight
- Medication

Once all clinics can achieve this, we can work with methodologists to find the most appropriate ways to answer the questions without the need of data travelling anywhere.

Actions:

- All clinics to share their semen analysis request forms- Please send them to Abha Maheshwari for collation
Everyone to explore what can be local barriers for this to happen
- Abha Maheshwari to propose this in NIG meeting (National Infertility Group)
- Sarah Martins Da Silva is putting in an application to EME/ NIHR for antioxidants
- Everyone to share what they have in their websites / patient information about male infertility

If you wish to conduct a similar focused strategic meeting on any topic in Reproductive Health and Childbirth please let Abha or Txaro know at abha.maheshwari@abdn.ac.uk or maria.amezaga@nhs.net

Good News Stories in Reproductive Health and Childbirth Research

Outstanding Recruitment to a Commercial study by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

RAINBOW. A randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group, dose-range trial to investigate the efficacy and safety of FE 999302 as add-on treatment to follitropin delta (REKOVELLE) in women undergoing controlled ovarian stimulation in a long GnRH agonist protocol.

4 out of 8 women who met the criteria were randomised and have become pregnant, with one set of twins!

Congratulations to Professor Scott Nelson and team!

The whole team have worked extremely hard on this study but particular mention to Isobel Crawford, research midwife, who has been instrumental in the set up and smooth running of the study.

Many thanks to all that sent us their Good News! They were included in the last Good News Reporting for the CSO, the NEXT DEADLINE is 25th October 2019.

Please continue to update us. Please send your Good News to abha.maheshwari@abdn.ac.uk or maria.amezaga@nhs.net

New Studies. Reminder!

The WILL Trial. When to Induce Labour to Limit risk in pregnancy hypertension – a multicentre, randomised controlled trial.

WILL aims to address optimal timing of delivery for women with chronic or gestational hypertension who reach term gestational age and are otherwise well.

This study was first circulated in the June Update.

The study team have now accepted all their sites for the pilot phase and they will begin communication with sites for the main phase at the end of the summer.

If you are interested in being part of the main phase please let us know and we will send the Protocol Summary. Please complete the feasibility survey at this link:

https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FeasibilitySurvey_v1point12_20190108/

