

NRS Reproductive Health and Childbirth Specialty Group Newsletter

March 2024/ Am Màrt 2024

The astronomical start of spring is marked by the vernal or spring Equinox, when the Sun crosses directly over the equator making day and night nearly of equal length. In 2024 it falls on 20 March in the northern hemisphere.



Letter from the PROTEA Study Team to Chief Midwives, Clinical leads, Information Governance leads, Early pregnancy lead midwives, nurses and consultants

Please see letter [here](#)

The PROTEA Study needs your help!



The PROTEA Study. PROgesterone for ThrEAtened Miscarriage: A Prospective Cohort Study in Scotland

CI: Dr Andrea Woolner, University of Aberdeen. Funded by the Chief Scientist Office



In the letter Dr Woolner provides an update on the PROTEA Study and asks on behalf of the Study Team for your continued support and consideration for your health board to participate in this valuable research project. Dr Woolner would be very happy to meet to discuss further (a.woolner@abdn.ac.uk)

NIHR Evidence. Research Findings

NIHR | National Institute for Health and Care Research

Does vaginal birth after a previous caesarean section increase the risk of pelvic floor surgery?

This is an Aberdeen Maternity and Neonatal Databank (AMND) study with Professor Mohamed Abdel-Fattah, University of Aberdeen, as the Scotland based co-author. Please see original research article below.



In this study, researchers analysed routinely collected data from more than 47,000 women in Scotland who gave birth after they had 1 or more previous caesarean section births. Pregnancies were of a single baby; twin or multiple births were not included. Most women (67%) had a planned vaginal birth.

Women were followed up for just over 22 years, on average. The study found that women who had a previous caesarean section:

- were more than twice as likely to have pelvic floor surgery if they planned a vaginal birth compared to planning another caesarean birth
- had a low risk of having pelvic floor surgery (less than 3% of women) during the study follow-up, regardless of the planned mode of birth.

The increased risk of having pelvic floor surgery was only seen in the women who actually gave birth vaginally as planned. Women who planned a vaginal birth but needed an unplanned caesarean section when they were in labour had a risk of pelvic floor surgery similar to those who had a planned caesarean section.

Original research article:

[Planned mode of birth after previous cesarean section and risk of undergoing pelvic floor surgery: A Scottish population-based record linkage cohort study | PLOS Medicine.](#)

Your good news stories, queries, feedback, are always welcome:
Abha (abha.maheshwari@nhs.scot), NRS Clinical Research Lead, or
Txaro (maria.amezaga@nhs.scot), NRS Champion Support Manager

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NIHR i4i Webinar: Call for New MedTech Funding Applications

Join this webinar on **27 March at 10.00am** to learn about funding opportunities for new MedTech projects from NIHR i4i. Please register [here](#) to attend.



The NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i) Programme is a translational research funding scheme aimed at de-risking early-to-late stage medical devices, in vitro diagnostic devices and high-impact patient-focused digital health technologies for ultimate use in the NHS or social care settings. **The next i4i Product Development Awards funding call will launch on 10 April 2024 (PDA call 28).**

Wellbeing of Women: our 2024 Research Training Fellowships and Research Project Grants open week commencing 11 March, including a period pain in adolescence call

Check the website to find out more about these funding opportunities and how to apply:

- [Research Training Fellowships](#)
- [Research Project Grants](#)
- [WoW-Reckitt Research Project Grant: Period Pain in Adolescence](#)



[Entry Level Scholarships](#) and [Postdoctoral Research Fellowships](#), including co-funding partnerships will open next month. For any queries please contact the WoW research team at research@wellbeingofwomen.org.uk or call 020 3697 6346.

CAHPR Scotland - GCU ReaCH Fellowships 2024 Open now!

CAHPR (the Community for Allied Health Professions Research) Scotland is delighted to partner with the Research Centre for Health (ReaCH) at Glasgow Caledonian University to deliver the CAHPR Scotland-GCU ReaCH Fellowships 2024. **Closing date 15 April 2024. [Flyer](#)**



The aim of these fellowships is to support AHP researchers to develop experience in research/ innovation, with support from experienced mentors, established research groups and a cohort of peers. Please follow this [link](#) to find out more details and how to apply.

Reminders

[23/160 Management of metabolic morbidity in women and others with PCOS | NIHR](#). Closes on 15 May 2024.
[Programme Grants for Applied Research - Competition 44 | NIHR](#). Closes on 3 April 2024.

Reproductive Health and Childbirth Studies

Find an update of Active Studies in Scotland per Health Board at this [link](#)



In the NRS RH&C [webpage](#), Portfolio studies are highlighted in the [Study Portfolio section](#)

RH&C Newsletters can be found [here](#).

For information about studies in the RH&C portfolio please contact Abha (abha.maheshwari@nhs.scot) or Txaro (maria.amezaga@nhs.scot)