

Research in the news



Research undertaken by a team at the University of Nottingham (West et al, 2014) has identified a fourfold increase in the incidence of coeliac disease during the past 22 years. The study examined data extracted from the Clinical Practice Research Datalink resource; this contains electronic information on consultations, diagnoses and prescriptions in primary care. The contrasts are thought to reflect differences in diagnosis of the disease rather than an increase in incidence. More information concerning the study can be found at <http://www.nature.com/ajg/journal/v109/n5/full/ajg201455a.html>.

Helmet therapy in infants with positional skull deformation has also featured in the news. A randomised controlled trial was conducted to investigate the effectiveness of this intervention compared with the condition's natural course in infants aged 5 – 6 months (van Wijk et al, 2014). The researchers' primary outcome measures were changes in skull shape and secondary outcomes included ear deviation, facial asymmetry, occipital lift, the infants' motor development, infant and parent measures of quality of life and parental satisfaction and anxiety. The researchers found no significant or clinically meaningful difference in skull shape between the two groups. Furthermore, all of the parents of infants in the helmet therapy group reported one or more side effects including skin irritation and increased sweating. The researchers recommended that the use of helmet therapy be discouraged due to the high cost of the therapy, associated side effects and the failure to show effectiveness for any of the outcomes in the study. The full article for this study is available to read online at: <http://www.bmj.com/content/348/bmj.g2741>

Recent research



Hopton A, MacPherson H, Keding A, Morley S.
Complementary medicine Acupuncture, counselling or usual care for depression and comorbid pain: secondary analysis of a randomised controlled trial. *BMJ Open*. 2014;4:e004964 doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2014-004964. The abstract of this paper is available at: <http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/4/5/e004964.short?rss=1>

Van Wijk RM et al. **Helmet therapy in infants with positional skull deformation:** randomised controlled trial. *BMJ* 2014;348:g2741. This article is available at: <http://www.bmj.com/content/348/bmj.g2741>

Peltier A, Goutman SA, Callaghan BC. Clinical Review: **Painful diabetic neuropathy.** *BMJ* 2014;348:g1799. This article is available at: <http://www.bmj.com/content/348/bmj.g1799>



Need some help making sense of the papers? Visit: <http://www.ncor.org.uk/learning-online/critical-appraisal/> for some help with how to critically review a paper.

Using Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) in osteopathic practice – volunteer practices wanted

Many osteopaths will be aware that NCOR is undertaking work on PROMs including developing an electronic data capture facility specifically for **outcome** data. This has been developed by undertaking a systematic review of selected PROMs and qualitative work involving both osteopaths and patients.

What do patients think about PROMs?

Thank you to those osteopaths who have recruited patients to take part in the short (30 minute) interviews about PROMs. We have been asking patients what they think about completing PROMs in private practice and using either the Internet (web app) or a mobile phone app to do this.

We would like to hear from more patients. If you think any of your patients might be interested, the participant information sheet can be found at <http://www.ncor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Participant-information-sheet-patient-interviews.pdf>. Alternatively, please contact Carol Fawkes at c.fawkes@qmul.ac.uk or by telephone on 07732178308.



Using PROMs in osteopathic practice

PROM data is being required increasingly from a variety of different sources. To support osteopaths an electronic PROM data collection facility has been developed for private practitioners. It has been tested during development in one private practice, and is now ready for a larger pilot in private practices.

Volunteer practices wanted

We will be looking for volunteers who may be interested in using this in their practices to collect data from fifteen current patients. If you are interested in finding out more about what this would involve, please contact Carol Fawkes at c.fawkes@qmul.ac.uk or by telephone on 07732178308.

More information about this project and other work contributing to the PROM data collection project can be found under Stages 4 and 5 at <http://www.ncor.org.uk/practitioners/patient-reported-outcomes/patient-reported-outcome-measures-in-osteopathy/>.

Austin Plunkett NCOR's New Research Assistant



We are delighted to welcome Austin Plunkett to the NCOR team; he will start his post as research assistant in June.

Austin graduated with distinction from the British School of Osteopathy in 2011, gaining a Masters degree. He experienced the benefits of osteopathy after seeking help for a variety of injuries sustained during martial arts and fitness training.

Austin has worked in several osteopathy clinics, and is a founding partner at a London Osteopathic clinic. His interests include the neurology of movement and pain, and how therapists of all disciplines can best apply theory to patient management.

Keeping up to date



Facebook: www.facebook.com/NCORnews

Twitter: www.twitter.com/NCOR_UK

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/national-council-for-osteopathic-research

Research hubs

Information about forthcoming research hub meetings can be found at: www.ncor.org.uk/getting-involved/hubs/
If you would like to attend a hub meeting, please get in touch with us: www.ncor.org.uk/contact-us/