

## Message From Amit Goyal (Chief Investigator)



A recent survey of US radiation oncologists post Z11 showed that most treat the undissected axilla in women with micro or macrometastases with axillary radiotherapy (Azghadi S et al. Clin Breast Cancer 2016; 16(5):410-417). **Therefore, in the US the standard of care in women fulfilling the Z11 criteria appears to be axillary radiotherapy rather than 'no axillary treatment'.**

We would like to deliver the study on time and there is a need to step up recruitment. The 'first consultation' is key when introducing POSNOC. Start with systemic and local treatment the women is going to receive (chemotherapy, endocrine therapy, radiotherapy to breast or chest wall). Then discuss axillary treatment - may be overtreatment and unnecessary as the drug treatment is more advanced and goes everywhere in the body, including the remaining lymph glands. Breast or chest wall radiotherapy treats some of the lymph glands in the lower armpit.

Wishing you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## Message from Bruce Mann (Australia & New Zealand team)

Activation of sites across Australia and New Zealand has progressed over the last 6 months, and all sites should be open by Christmas. While there is great enthusiasm for the trial, early experience is that the explanation and consent process can be long and challenging. A workshop was held at the recent Leura meeting, facilitated by Professor Phyllis Butow and involving actors to help investigators explore the explanation and consent issues. Assistance from the UK has been invaluable in allowing the ANZBCTG team to smoothly and efficiently launch POSNOC.

## Site Stories

We recently invited sites to contribute to the newsletter and share their experiences, challenges and methods used to overcome barriers leading to successful recruitment. If your site has a success story you would like to share, please don't hesitate to get in touch!!

Working on the POSNOC Trial has been extremely rewarding.

It is true to say the input of trials staff is not always reflected in the number of recruits who enter the trial. However the patients who have entered the trial at Medway Maritime Hospital have a clear and full understanding of their pathway irrespective of the arm to which they were randomised.

Recruitment can be challenging but there is a real sense of achievement when a patient has understood the benefits of the trial and is keen to participate. POSNOC at Medway Maritime is discussed at each Breast MDT and the potential patients are seen in clinic by the surgeon and the Breast Clinical Nurse Specialist prior to seeing the Trials Nurse. This clinic appointment has significant impact on whether or not the patient enters the trial. The surgeon's information and advice regarding POSNOC has real impact

on the patient's understanding and interest in joining the trial. The surgeon who gives clear concise and positive information shows the patient that we are all one team working towards a positive patient experience and a better future for breast cancer patients.

Deirdre Cooke RGN

Clinical Trials Practitioner

**Medway & Maritime Hospital**



### Macclesfield District Hospital

The successful recruitment into the POSNOC Trial at Macclesfield is primarily due to the strong Research focused ethos of the Surgical Breast Team. The Surgeons believe the POSNOC Trial is an important question that needs to be answered and are therefore pro active in identifying eligible patients.

The Research Nurses attendance at the Multi Disciplinary Team meetings ensures that any questions about the Trial can be answered quickly and decisions regarding the patients pathway are not compromised or delayed.

Recruitment—(02/11/16)

Total Recruitment

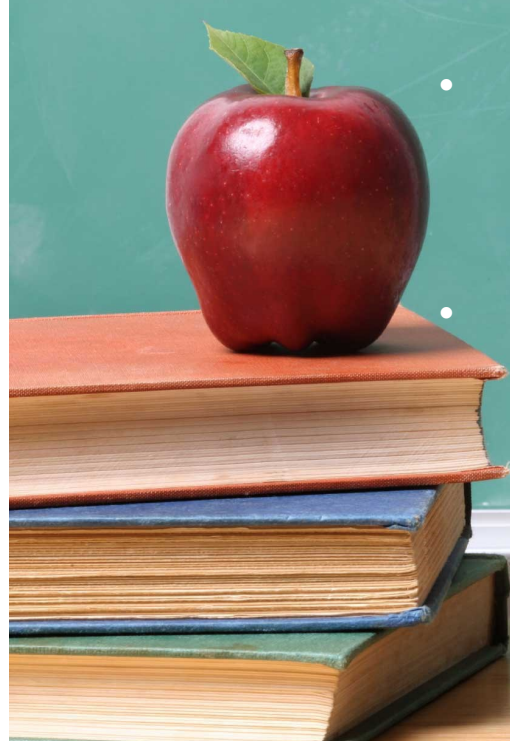
<b>All Sites</b>	<b>526</b>
Top 10 Recruiting Sites	
Royal Derby Hospital	32
Southmead Hospital	21
Wythenshawe Hospital	21
John Radcliffe Hospital	19
Belfast City Hospital	16
Rotherham Hospital	15
Royal Bolton Hospital	15
Castle Hill Hospital	15
Addenbrookes Hospital	14
Medway Maritime Hospital	13



The **500<sup>th</sup>** patient was randomised into the POSNOC trial by the team at Derriford Hospital! Thank you to all sites for their hard work and contribution to reach this milestone.

Back to school—some Important POSNOC lessons

- Intention to treat—Should a patient refuse the allocated randomisation they still remain on trial and you continue with routine data collection
- Axillary and Systemic Treatment Data - The axillary and systemic treatment data needs to be entered into the macro database as soon as the information is available to assess compliance with protocol
- Resetting password in Macro & Randomisation database— If you have forgotten your password, you are now able to select the forgotten password and reset your password. After 2 incorrect attempts please use the forgotten password link to reset your password before accounts become disabled.



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