

SELF FUNDED PHD OPPORTUNITY

Pain Levels and Pre-Operative Anxiety within Cardiac Care:

An in-depth qualitative study to explore patient experience of pain during routine cardiac implantation procedures

Background

Cardiac implantable electronic device (CIED) implantation is a prevalent part of cardiac rhythm management. CIEDs incorporate a range of devices (e.g pacemakers, ICDs, Sub-cutaneous ICDs) all of which are implanted under local anaesthetic, with varying levels of sedation according to patient need.

Research to date has focussed on the adjustment and quality of life of patients following CIED implantation (for examples see Bostwick, 2007; Opic, 2012). Pre and post-implantation distress has been found to be an important predictor of psychological and physical outcomes for CIEDs. A prospective audit completed over 23 months has found that although the majority of patients (63%) report no / mild pain during CIED implantation, an important minority of patients (16%) report severe pain, with high levels of pre-procedural anxiety the most significant predictor of severe pain (Senior et al, 2019).

We are looking for a PhD student who would like to develop an in-depth qualitative study to enhance our understanding of the experiences of CIED implantation patients who report severe pain during their procedure, as well as those who report high levels of pre-implantation distress (whether associated with pain during implantation or not). This multi-disciplinary, collaborative study will be conducted across both a University and NHS environment, offering an opportunity for the successful applicant to develop an applied, impactful research study which could directly enhance patient experiences in this important area of cardiac care.

Supervisory Team

Director of Studies: Professor Eleanor Bradley, Professor of Health Psychology, College Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange, College of Life, Health and Environmental Sciences, University of Worcester

Dr Kerry Gaskin: Head of Department Post Qualifying Courses, Three Counties School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Worcester

External Advisors:

Dr David Wilson: Consultant Cardiologist; Worcestershire Acute NHS Trust; Worcester Royal Hospital

Nicola Brewster: Arrhythmia Specialist Nurse; Worcestershire Acute NHS Trust; Worcester Royal Hospital

References

Bostwick JM and Sola CL (2007) An updated review of implantable cardioverter/defibrillators, induced anxiety, and quality of life. *Psychiatr Clin North Am* Vol. 30, pp 677-688

Opic P, Utens E, Moons P, Theuns D, van Dijk A, Hoendermis E *et al* (2012) Psychosocial impact of implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICD) in young adults with Tetralogy of Fallot. *Clin Res Cardiol* 101: 509-519