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Birmingham Centre for  
Observational and  
Prospective Studies

# Research Update – IA Information Day May 2024

Professor Thomas Pinkney

*George Drexler & Royal College of Surgeons Chair of Surgical Clinical Trials, University of Birmingham, UK  
Consultant Colorectal/IBD Surgeon, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham*



## The plan:

- Why research is important
- Why research can be difficult in surgery
- How research might fit into the surgical pathway
- New types of research
- Opportunities to get involved



- ❑ ACCURE-UK 2
- ❑ OCEAN
- ❑ MEErKAT
- ❑ PROPHER
- ❑ ROSSINI 2
- ❑ PROMISE-IBD



- ❑ ACCURE-UK 2     - *results!*
- ❑ OCEAN             - *just opening*
- ❑ MEErKAT          - *ongoing*
- ❑ PROPHER          - *ongoing and great*
- ❑ ROSSINI 2         - *update on progress & extension*
- ❑ PROMISE-IBD     - *starting later in 2024*

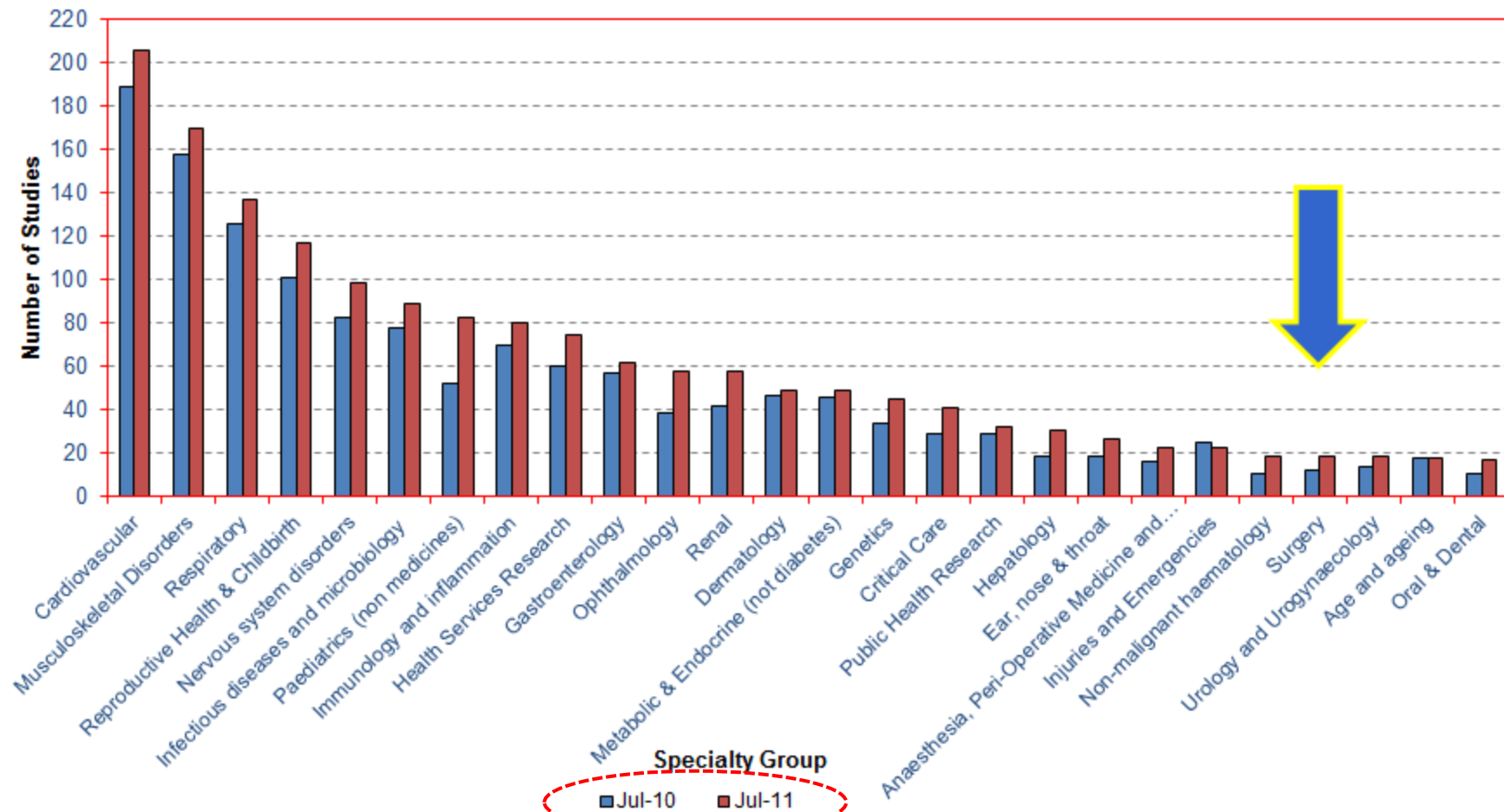




- Average UK adult: 4-5 operations in their life
- 40-45% of NHS annual budget on surgery
- 7.7M operations currently waiting to be done



### (1) Number of Open Studies





Operation



Discharge & Recovery



*Surgery vs  
Medicine*

*Anaesthetic type*

*Post-op dressings*

*Supported discharge*

Operation

Discharge & Recovery

*Type / extent of  
surgery*

*Anastomosis type*

*ERAS vs standard*

*Follow-up frequency  
& modality*

*Pre-op nutrition*

*Wound infection  
prevention*

*Patient-reported  
outcomes*

*Tailored pre-hab  
exercise*

*Post-op pain  
strategies*

*Stopping smoking*





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Amsterdam UMC  
Universitair Medische Centra

# The Appendix in UC – finally some results!

Prof Thomas Pinkney  
*University of Birmingham, UK*



**ACCURE**-trial



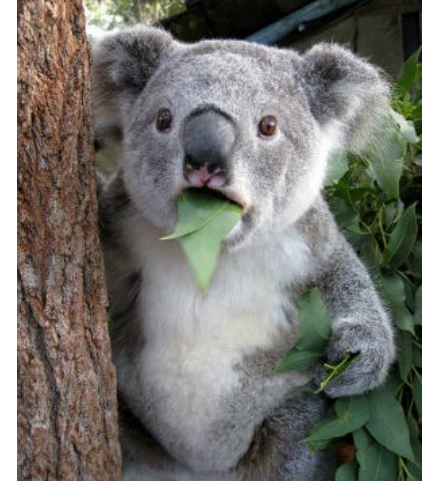
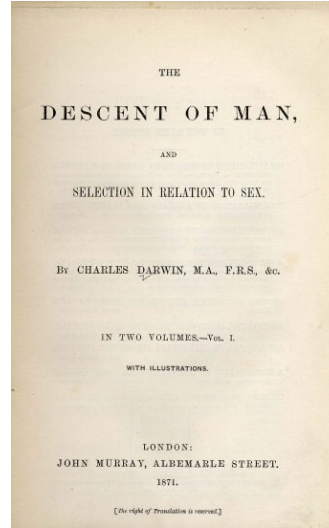
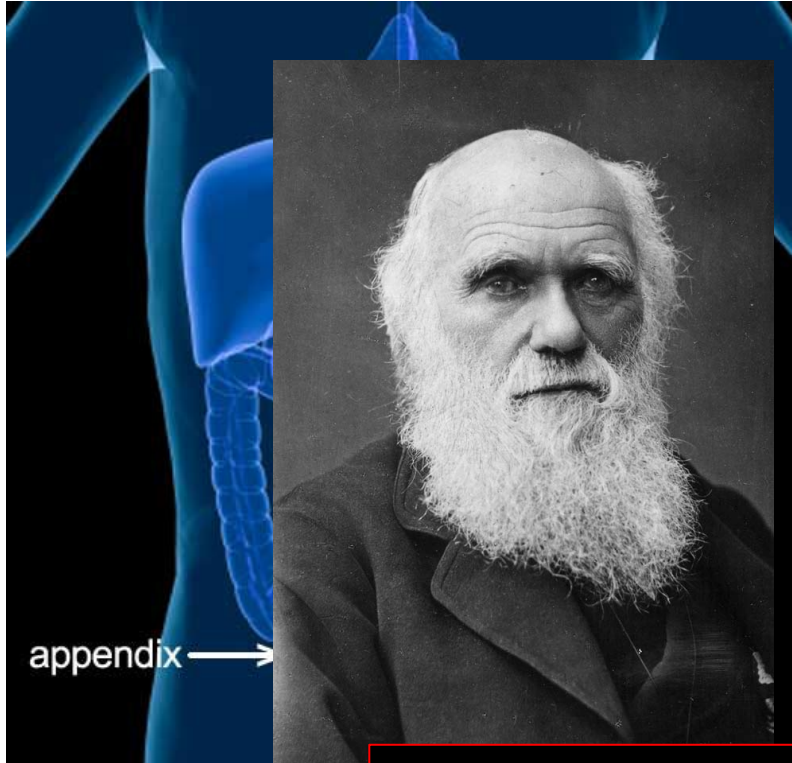
# **ACCURE**-trial



Eva Visser



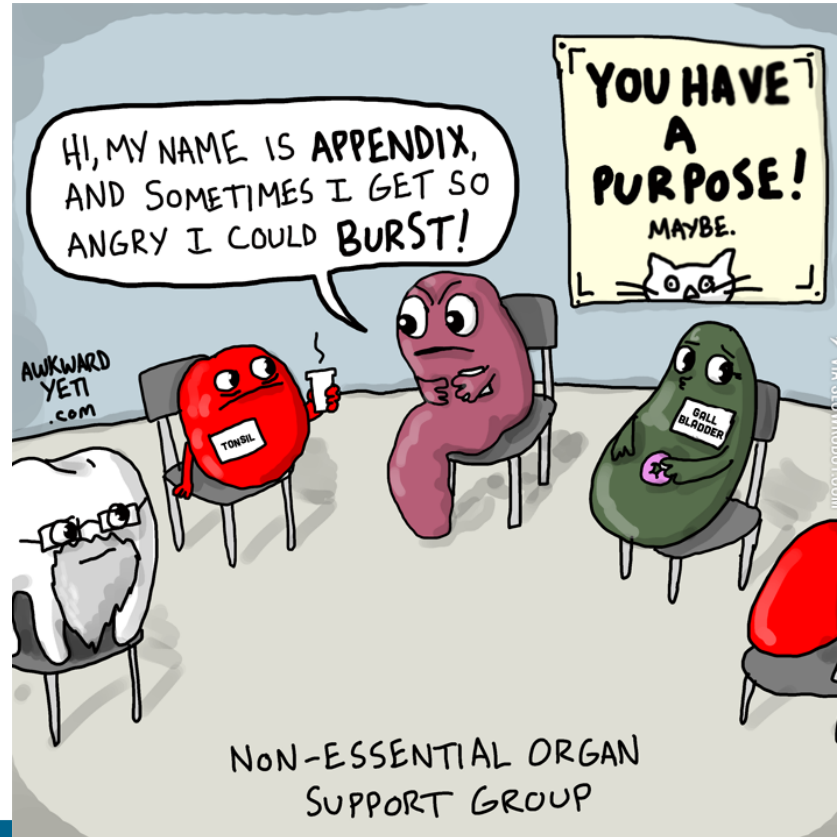
# The appendix



‘vestigial organs’ = evidence for evolution



# The role of the appendix in humans?



# Appendectomy and the development of UC



Appendectomy Protects against Ulcerative Colitis

Appendectomy as a child results in  
⇓⇓ lifetime risk of developing  
UC in the future



## Case reports – emergency appendicectomy for **appendicitis** in UC patients

- Lifetime population risk of developing appendicitis is around 9%
- Patients with UC developed appendicitis, had appendicectomy and **noticed symptoms of UC seemed to improve**



# Deliberate **therapeutic** appendicectomy in UC pts

Author	Year	n =	Inclusion	Findings/success rate
Bolin	2009	30	<b>Active ulcerative proctitis with unremitting symptoms despite medical therapy</b>	Improvement in CAI in 27 of 30 (90%). 12 of 30 (40%) had full resolution of symptoms and came off medication
Radford-Smith	2003	15	<b>Refractory UC</b>	"Significant improvements in CAI ( $P=0.015$ ), endoscopic activity ( $P=0.02$ ) and need for medication ( $P=0.02$ ) at 12mths"
Okazaki	2000	1	<b>Distal active UC</b>	Asymptomatic at 3yrs (100%)
Kim	2006	1	<b>Severe pancolitis</b>	No relapse at 1yr; came off medication (100%)
Jarnerot	2001	6	<b>UC refractory to standard treatment in whom proctocolectomy was being considered.</b>	Unclear. Not reported - most patients (5 of 6) got better; but they could find other possible 'reasons' for this improvement (eg restarting smoking, change of maintenance medication)
Bageacu	2011	8	<b>Refractory ulcerative proctitis</b>	All patients had mucosal healing. 4 patients (50%) experienced only one flare-up post-appendectomy then nil further.



Appendicectomy  
in UC

To maintain  
remission?

To treat active  
disease?





## Aim

To evaluate the efficacy of appendicectomy in maintaining remission in UC patients



# Methods

## Trial design

Multicenter, randomized controlled superiority trial (1:1)

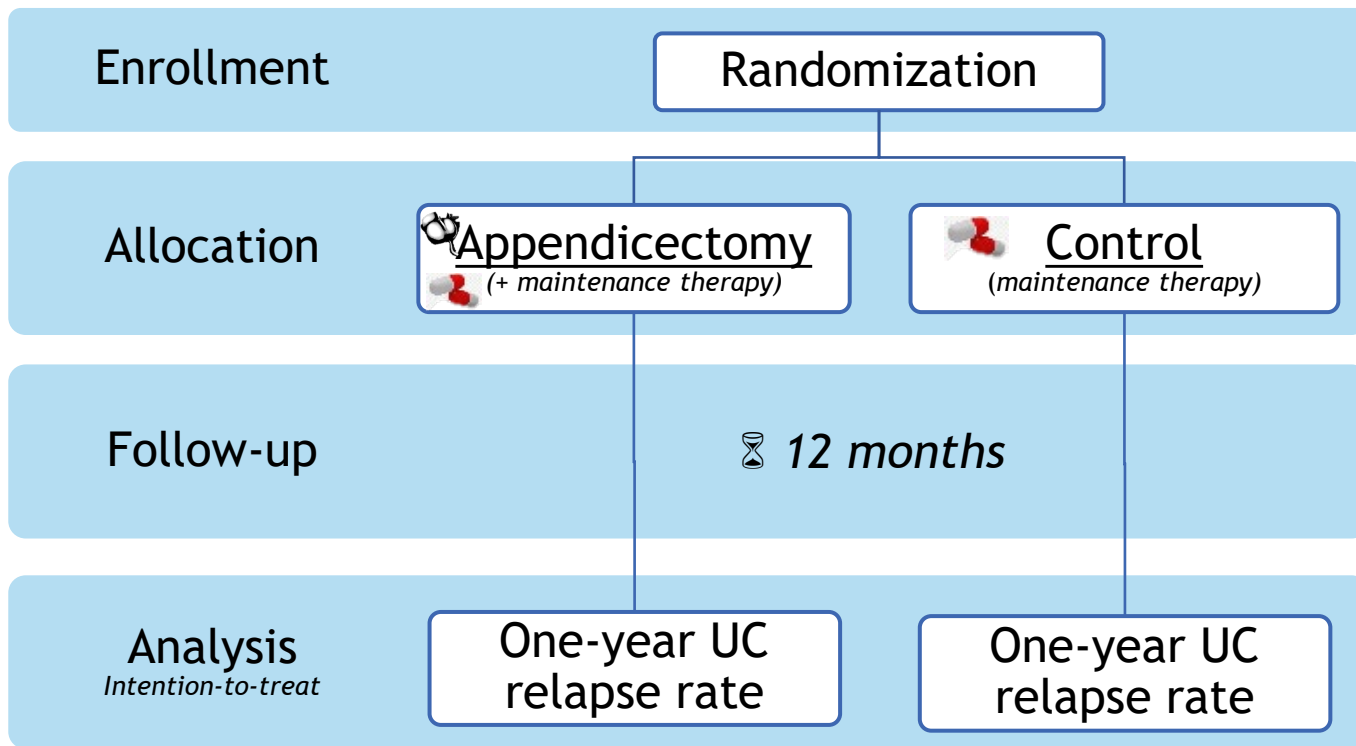
*Stratification by disease extent*

## Study population

UC patients in **complete remission** (clinically and endoscopically) after being medically treated for disease relapse within the past 12 months



# Methods







# Methods

## Primary outcome

One-year UC relapse rate

- Total Mayo-score  $\geq 5$  with endoscopic subscore of 2 or 3
- Clinical (*exacerbation of symptoms + rectal bleeding / FCP > 150 / intensified therapy*)



TOILET



ENDOSCOPY



CLINICAL  
SUSPECTED  
RELAPSE



CRITICAL EVENT  
COMMITTEE



ICA

IBD Center Amsterdam



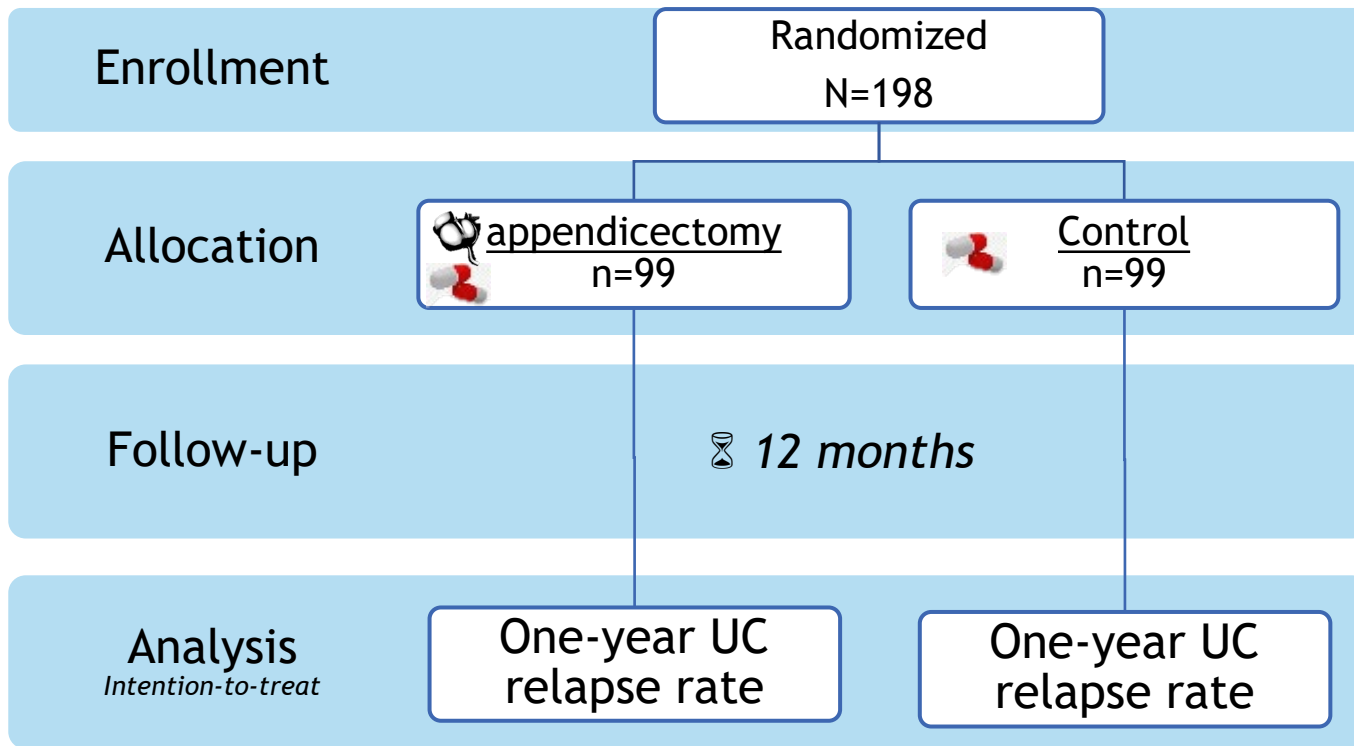
# Methods

## Secondary outcomes

- Number of relapses per patient
- Time to first relapse
- Disease activity
- Number of colectomies
- Medication usage
- Health-related quality of life



# Results





# Results





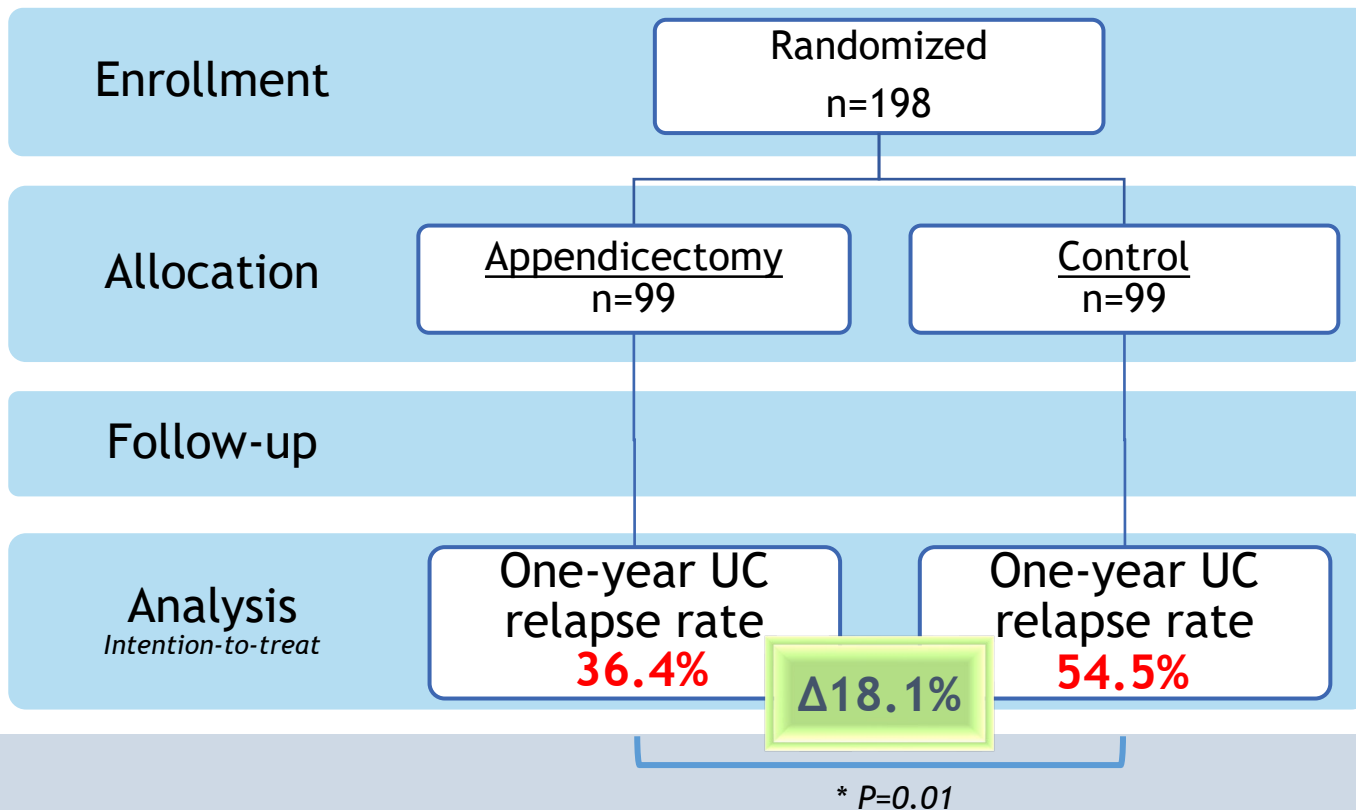
**Table 1. Baseline characteristics of the patients included in the trial (n=198)**

	<b>Appendicectomy (n=99)</b>	<b>Control (n=99)</b>
Median age (IQR) - years	41 (32-49)	41 (34-45)
Female sex	57.6%	57.6%
Median disease duration (IQR) - years	5 (2-12)	5 (2-11)
Former smoker	38.4%	47.5%
PSC	1.4%	-
Family history of IBD	25.5%	31.3%
Medication at inclusion		
5-ASA	74.7%	81.6%
Immunomodulators	6.1%	12.2%
Extent of disease		
Proctitis	38.4%	39.4%
Left-sided colitis	34.3%	36.4%
Pancolitis	27.3%	24.2%
Median time from start most recent exacerbation to randomization (IQR) - weeks	26 (17-42)	28 (16-44)

*Abbreviations: IQR: interquartile range; PSC: primary sclerosing cholangitis; IBD: inflammatory bowel disease; 5-ASA: 5-aminosalicylic acid.*




# Results





# Results

## Secondary outcomes

- Number of relapses per patient
  - Appendicectomy: n=1 (80.6%)    n=2 (19.4%)     $p=0.207$
  - Control:                    n=1 (69.8%)    n=2 (22.6%)    n=3 (7.5%)
- Time to first relapse
  - Appendicectomy: 26 (IQR 11—49) weeks     $p=0.189$
  - Control:                    16 (IQR 6-35) weeks
- Number of colectomies
  - One-year: none
  - -year: appendicectomy: none, control: n=3 (therapy-refractory UC)



# Medication usage

Table 4. **Preliminary** mediation usage

	Baseline		12 months			
	A	C				
	N=99	N=99	A		C	
			N=93		N=93	
No medication	12.1%	4.1%	22.6%		7.7%	
5-ASA	74.7%	81.6%	61.3%	← →	38.7%	
Systemic steroids	1.0%	1.0%	2.2%		5.5%	
Immunomodulators	6.1%	12.2%	6.5%		13.2%	
Biologicals	-	-	3.2%		5.5%	

Abbreviations: A: appendectomy; C: control; 5-ASA: 5-aminosalicylic acid





# Safety

## Appendicectomy (n=99)

3 SAEs

- 2 Surgical reintervention
- 1 Hospitalization (Clostridium)

## Control (n=99)

1 SAE (acute appendicitis)



# Colectomy during long-term follow-up



No colectomies in appendicectomy group

3 colectomies in the control group (3.6%) for therapy refractory UC



# Conclusion

**Appendicectomy** in UC patients showed a significant **reduction ( $\Delta 18.1\%$ )** in the one-year relapse rate.

Patients in the appendicectomy group also had **significantly less medication use** after one year.



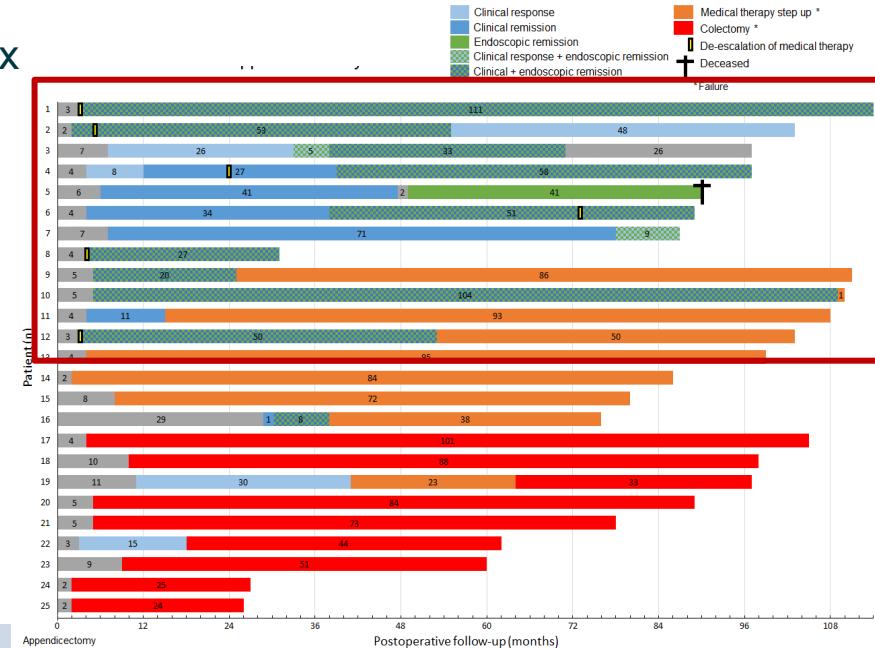
# Appendectomy to treat active UC

## Refractory ulcerative proctitis (n=30)

- 90% improvement in clinical colitis activity index
- 40% complete remission

## PASSION study (refractory UC, n=30, FU 7y)

- Endoscopic remission: 48%  
*median duration: 42 months*
- Clinical remission: 60%  
*median duration: 80 months*



Should people with UC be having their  
appendix removed now...?



# What about the placebo effect?



# Sham/placebo appendicectomy...?

- Overcome selective reporting; subjectivity
- Undertake standard 3-port laparoscopy but randomise some patients to miss out the *critical surgical element* (appendicectomy)

UC patient

Stratify: remission vs  
treatment-refractory

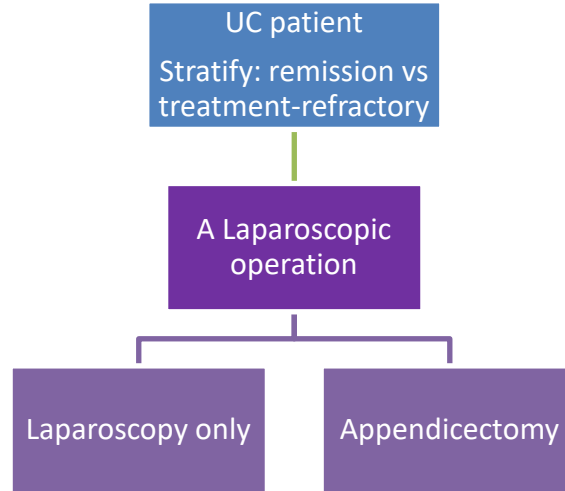


UC patient  
Stratify: remission vs  
treatment-refractory

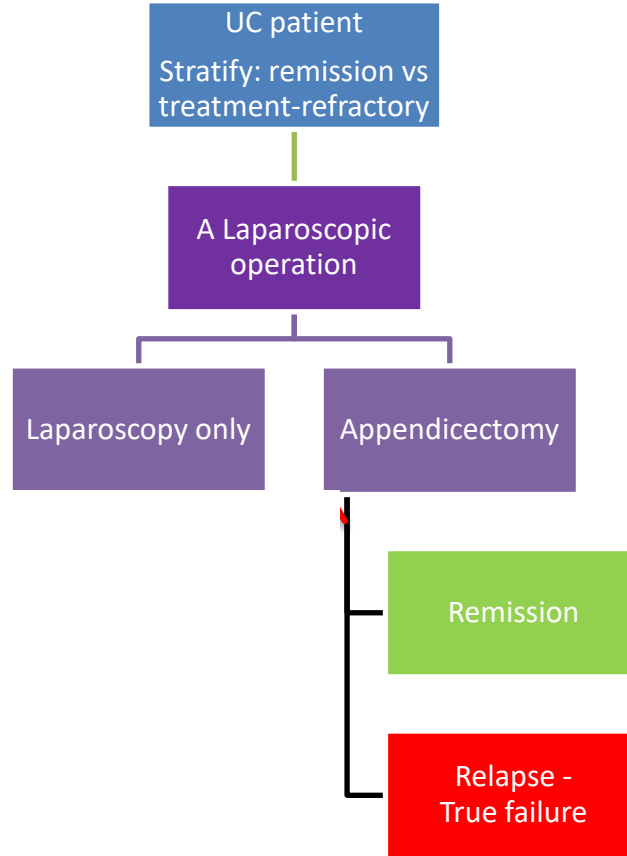


A Laparoscopic  
operation

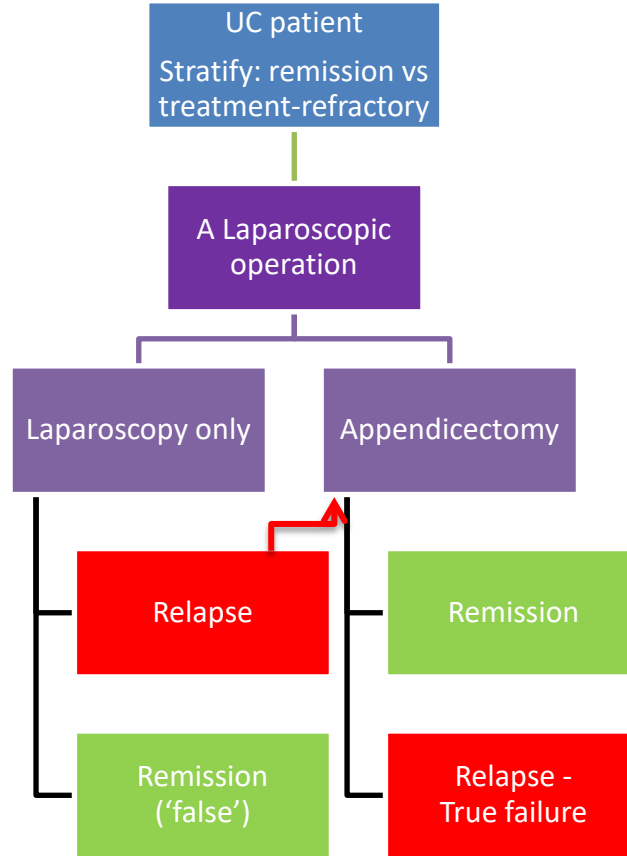
Randomisation  
(in theatre)



Randomisation  
(in theatre)



Randomisation  
(in theatre)





# Considerations and methods for placebo trials (ASPIRE guidelines)

*David J Beard, Marion K Campbell, Jane M Blazeby, Andrew J Carr, Charles Weijer, Brian Felicity L Bishop, Jonathan Pugh, Sian Cousins, Ian A Harris, L Stefan Lohmander, Nats Andrew Cook, Dair Farrar-Hockley, Julian Savulescu, Richard Huxtable, Amar Rangan, Jon Nicholl, Barnaby C Reeves, Freddie Hamdy, Samuel CS Rowley, Jonathan A Cook*

*Lancet* 2020; 395: 828–38

**Placebo comparisons are increasingly being considered for randomised controlled trials**

## Panel 2: Stages of the Deconstruct, Identify, Take out, Think risk, Optimise framework (known as DITTO)

### Stage one: Deconstruct

Deconstruct the treatment intervention, including the co-interventions. The updated typology is used to deconstruct the treatment intervention, resulting in a comprehensive list of treatment components and steps, including co-interventions.

### Stage two: Identify

Identify the essential surgical element, which could be one or more components or steps in the surgical intervention, and identify which treatment components and steps are included or not in the placebo intervention.

### Stage three: Take out

Omit the essential surgical element from the proposed placebo intervention.

### Stage four: Think risk

Consider the potential risk to patients, feasibility, and the role of the placebo intervention within the randomised controlled trial (eg, as a control intervention to elucidate treatment mechanism). This stage might result in further components or steps being omitted from the placebo intervention.

### Stage five: Optimise

Optimise the placebo throughout the design process (eg, sensory masking).



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#### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

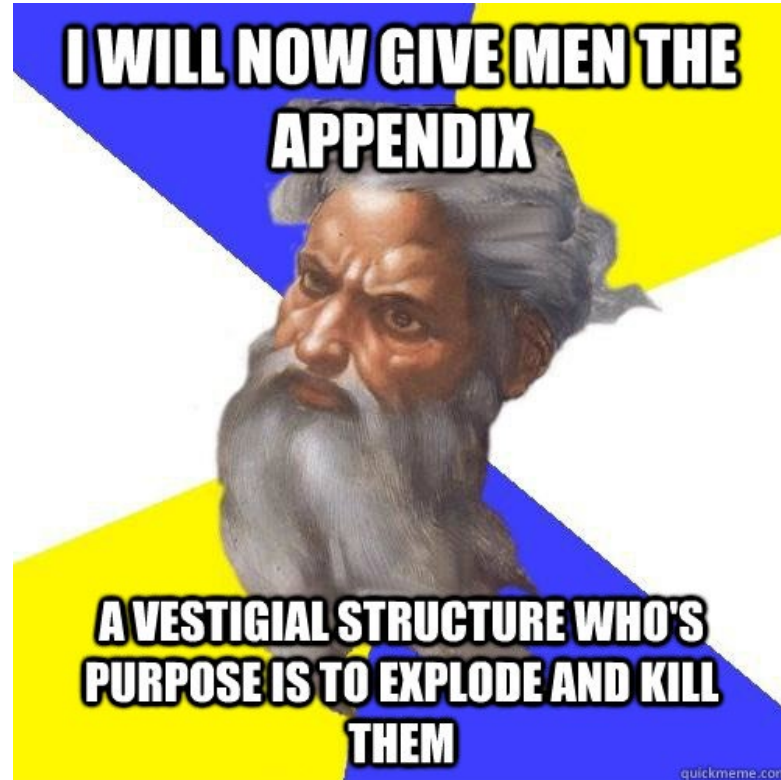
### A Controlled Trial of Arthroscopic Surgery for Osteoarthritis of the Knee

J. Bruce Moseley, M.D., Kimberly O'Malley, Ph.D., Nancy J. Petersen, Ph.D., Terri J. Menke, Ph.D., Baruch A. Brody, Ph.D., David H. Kuykendall, Ph.D., John C. Hollingsworth, Dr.P.H., Carol M. Ashton, M.D., M.P.H., and Nelda P. Wray, M.D., M.P.H.  
N Engl J Med 2002; 347:81-88 | July 11, 2002 | DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa013259

**LUNA Trial**

**C|saW**  
CAN SHOULDER  
ARTHROSCOPY WORK?

# Conclusions



# Conclusions

- The appendix and UC are linked
- Appendicectomy is effective as a treatment in **both**:
  - UC in remission to reduce relapses
  - Active/treatment-refractory UC to prevent colectomy
- Do we now need a placebo-controlled trial?





# OCEAN

## The role of pre-operative Exclusive Enteral Nutrition (EEN) in Crohn's Disease



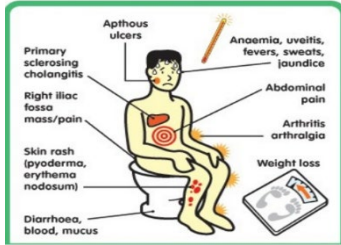


# Exclusive Enteral Nutrition (EEN):



# EEN is an extremely effective treatment (in children)

Makes people feel better (>80%)



Works at least as well as oral steroids



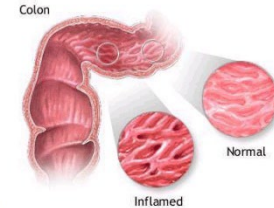
Improves blood disease markers



Replenish nutritional deficits and build muscles



Induces mucosal healing better than steroids




*Gerasimidis et al, IBD 2013; Gerasimidis et al, JCG 2011; Cameron et al, APT 2013; Buchanan et al, APT 2009; Gerasimidis et al, IBD 2012; Duncan et al BMC Gastro, 2014; Logan et al APT 2019; Borrelli et al Clin Gastro 2006*

# Evidence supporting pre-op EEN in adults

- Multiple small studies; mostly single centre & retrospective
- EEN appears to..
  - Improve **BMI**
  - Improve **albumin** levels, **haemoglobin** levels, reduce **CRP**
  - Allow **time to get off steroids**
  - Allow time to **stop smoking**
  - Reduce **complication** rates
  - Reduce **stoma** rates

## Exclusive enteral nutrition provides an effective bridge to safer interval elective surgery for adults with Crohn's disease

N. Heerasingh , B. Thompson, P. Hendy, G. A. Heap, G. Walker, R. Bethune, S. Mansfield, C. Calvert, N. A. Kennedy, T. Ahmad & J. R. Goodhand

### MEDWAY, UK

- 24 pts
- Reduction in CRP at surgery
- Increase in albumin at surgery
- Only 3 needed a stoma
- Low complication rates

### EXETER, UK

- 51 pts
- Reduction in CRP at surgery
- Op durations shorter
- Complications much lower
- 13 (25%) avoided surgery completely



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Clinical Nutrition ESPEN

journal homepage: <http://www.clinicalnutritionespen.com>



Original article

### Does exclusive enteral nutrition reduce the rate of stoma formation in patients requiring ileocolic resection for Crohn's disease? A single center experience

Ayeshah Gordon–Dixon<sup>\*</sup>, Rumneek Hampal, Anur Miah, Shruti Webb–Butler, Wendy Lewis, Rose Ross, Nivedita Ghosh, Caris Grimes

Medway Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Windmill Way, Gillingham, ME7 5NY, UK

Search...

## Funding opportunities

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# HTA commissioned call

**20/133 Pre-operative exclusive enteral nutrition for Crohn's disease**





# OCEAN TRIAL

FUNDED BY

**NIHR** | National Institute for  
Health and Care Research

- Elective Crohn's surgery (small bowel +/- colonic)
- Re-do surgery included; stricturoplasty included
- Randomised to 6 weeks of pre-operative Exclusive Enteral Nutrition (EEN) vs standard care
- 40 units; n = 618 patients
- Will interlink with Crohn's *surgical technique* RCT
- Co-leads: Gastroenterology and Surgery
- Birmingham Clinical Trials Unit



# Optimisation before Crohn's surgery using Exclusive enteral Nutrition (OCEaN) Trial Schema and Flowchart

FUNDED BY

**NIHR** | National Institute for Health and Care Research



Population

Adult patients having elective surgery for luminal small bowel and/or colonic Crohn's Disease (CD) – including primary or re-do surgery - identified as potentially eligible for trial during acute hospital admission, MDT discussion or outpatient clinic.



Eligibility

Eligibility criteria:

- Proven Crohn's disease requiring resectional surgery or stricturoplasty
- Willingness to go on EEN for the duration of the intervention period
- >18 years of age and able and willing to give informed consent

at least 8 months.  
intervention as well as in-depth  
ds for patients in both arms.

## Dual Primary outcomes at 6 weeks post operation:

Patient reported Crohn's Life Impact Questionnaire (CLIQ) - assessing the impact of Crohn's disease on the patient  
Comprehensive Complication Index (CCI) - a measure of post-operative complications



Randomisation

Baseline parameters measured and recorded  
n = 618 patients randomised

**RANDOMISATION**  
(1:1)

**INTERVENTION ARM** n = 309 pts  
**EEN for 6 weeks pre-op**

**SURGERY**

**CONTROL ARM** n = 309 pts  
**SURGERY**

Follow-up at 6 weeks, 6 and 12 months post-surgery at surgical, IBD or research clinic.  
Surveillance colonoscopy 6 - 12 months post-operatively.

Internal pilot with embedded qualitative  
In-depth qualitative data concerning the acceptability of EEN  
understanding of the comparative experience of pre- and post-

Will also assess:

- QoR score
- EEN Compliance
- Cost Effectiveness
- Proportion avoiding surgery
- Disease recurrence rates



Treatment Allocation



Follow-Up



- First sites opened last week
- First patient recruited (at Russells Hall Hospital) on Tuesday
- *If you or someone you know is undergoing an operation for Crohn's you should ask about it*



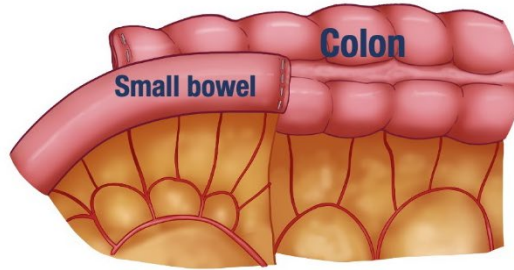


Steve Brown & Laura Hancock  
Sheffield CTU

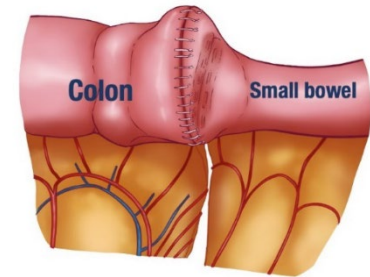
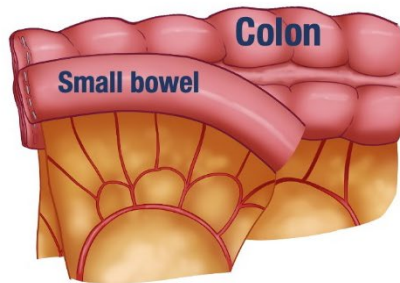


## Background - Kono-S

- It is an alternative method of joining the small bowel and colon
- This results in the join being positioned away from the mesentery
- Limited evidence suggests this reduces recurrence



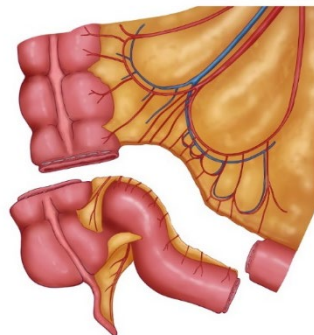
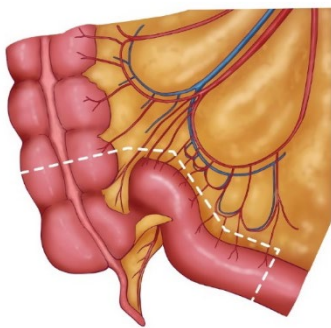
Examples of standard bowel joins after ileocecal resection



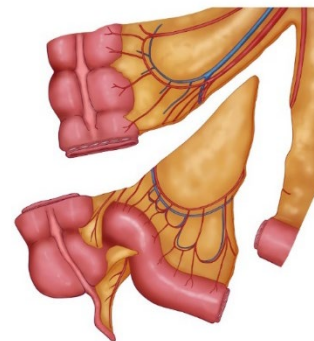
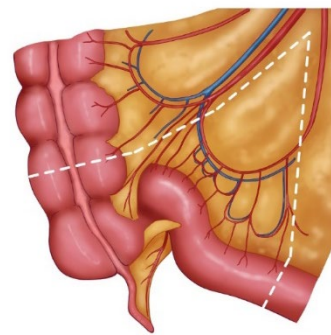
Bowel join after Kono-S resection

## Background – Mesenteric excision

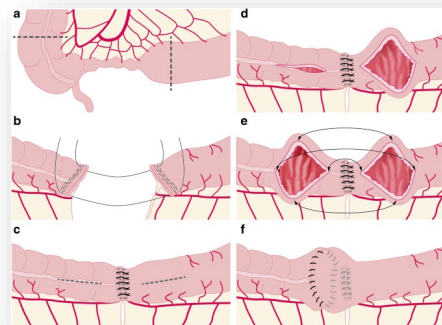
- Some clinicians believe that removing more of the mesentery results in a lower recurrence of disease
- So far evidence of this is lacking



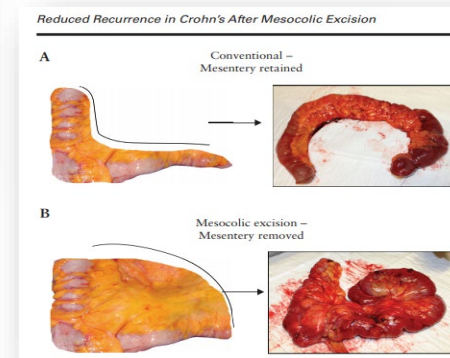
Close mesenteric excision



Extended (Radical) mesenteric excision



- Crohn's ileocaecal resections
- 2x2 design: Kono-S & wide mesenteric resection



**Mesentery: Normal**  
**Anastomosis: Close**

**Mesentery: KONO-S**  
**Anastomosis: Close**

**Mesentery: Normal**  
**Anastomosis: RADICAL**

**Mesentery: KONO-S**  
**Anastomosis: RADICAL**

- Open now across UK – 127 pts recruited



# Patient Reported Outcomes

‘A PRO is any report of the status of a patient’s health condition that comes directly from the patient, without interpretation of the patient’s response by a clinician or anyone else.’

FDA guidance: Guidance for Industry, Patient-Reported Outcome Measures: Use in Medical Product Development to Support Labeling Claims. 2009



# Why assess PROMs in a trial?

- Inform future patient choice and consent
- Particularly when
  - minimal differences in survival
  - treatments have different side effects
- Feed into health economic evaluation and health policy



# Is it harder to use PROMS in surgical trials?

- Perhaps PROMs are easier in surgery (compared to other settings)
  - Surgery is a discrete event
  - Several specific post-operative outcomes that can **only** be reported by patients:
    - Pain
    - Quality of recovery
    - Return to normal function
    - Satisfaction / *did it actually work* ?
  - Remember, surgery is a complex intervention



**“Health research is better  
if it’s **done with patients,**  
rather than to them”**

Simon Denegri, NIHR National Director for Patients and the Public in Research







# Patient Reported Outcomes after Parastomal HErnia tReatment

Professor Thomas Pinkney, *University of Birmingham*  
&

Miss Sue Blackwell, *Patient co-chief Investigator*



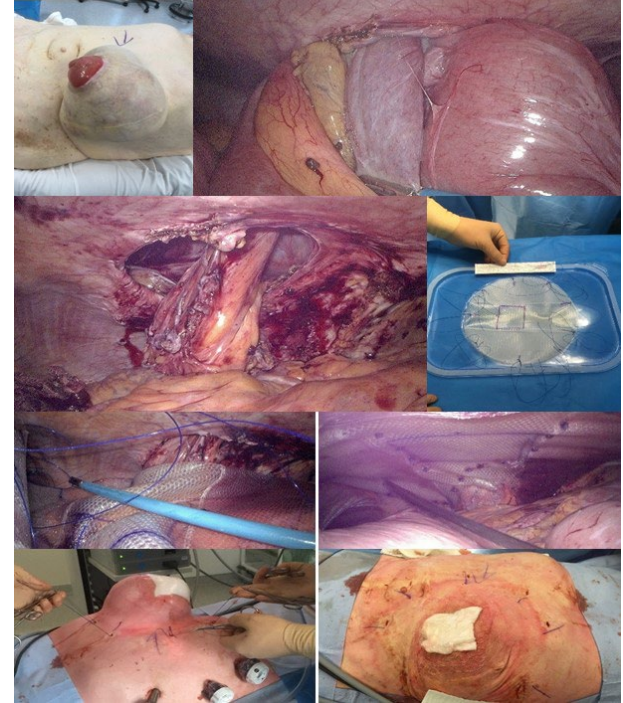
@PropherStudy



# Management of parastomal hernia



VS



# What we know

## Watchful waiting - commonest strategy

- Risk vs benefit unknown
- Increase in size over time?
- More complex surgery if left?
- When to operate?

## Surgical Repair

- That we don't know the best way to repair a parastomal hernia!

**Statement:** *There is no evidence on the comparative outcome of the benefit of watchful waiting versus surgery for patients with a parastomal hernia.*

**Recommendation:** *No recommendation can be made on the policy of watchful waiting for patients with a non-incarcerated parastomal hernia.*

**Quality of evidence:** ☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

**Strength of recommendation:** No

**Statements:** *There is insufficient evidence on the risk of recurrence following laparoscopic versus open parastomal hernia repair with a mesh.*

*There is insufficient evidence on the morbidity following laparoscopic versus open parastomal hernia repair with a mesh.*

**Recommendation:** *No recommendation can be made in favor of laparoscopic or open parastomal hernia repair with a mesh in elective surgery.*

**Quality of evidence:** ☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

**Strength of recommendation:** No

**Statements:** *There is insufficient evidence on the most effective mesh for parastomal hernia repair with regard to recurrence or morbidity.*

*There is no evidence supporting superiority of biological over synthetic meshes with regard to recurrence or morbidity.*

**Recommendation:** *No recommendation can be made on the use of specific mesh material for parastomal hernia repair.*

**Quality of evidence:** ☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

**Strength of recommendation:** No

# Assessing outcomes of PSH treatment

## Outcome reporting – who to believe?

- Surgeon's assessment of stoma site?
- Radiological investigation?
- Patient-reported?





- Largest study of parastomal hernia management
- First time patient reported outcomes have been a primary outcome measure in parastomal hernia research
- Largest prospective evaluation of Quality of Life and parastomal hernia repair
- Use of novel technology to report PROMS

# Who

**Any patient with PSH having active management**

- Stoma Care Nurse or Surgeon recruitment
- > 18 years
- Bowel stoma

**Watchful waiting**

**or**

**Operative intervention**



# How



**CLINICIAN: Patient demographics;  
operation technique and short-  
term (30 day) outcomes**





# How



**CLINICIAN:** Patient demographics;  
operation technique and short-  
term (30 day) outcomes



**PATIENT:** Long term outcomes,  
satisfaction, QOL up to 12 months







# Patient reported outcomes

- HR QOL
- Stoma Impact Score
- Measure Yourself Medical Outcomes Profile (MYMOP)
- Decisional Regret



Not important      a bit important      very important      not applicable

## Decision Regret Scale © AM O'Connor, 1996 University of Ottawa

	Site	Date opened	Screened	Eligible	Consented
<b>1</b>	<b>QE Birmingham</b>	21-Aug-23	43	42	<b>31</b>
<b>2</b>	Royal Devon & Exeter	18-Sep-23	42	41	<b>20</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Warwick Hospital</b>	18-Oct-23	6	6	<b>1</b>
<b>4</b>	Royal Victoria Infirmary	02-Nov-23	46	26	<b>13</b>
<b>5</b>	Bedford Hospital	20-Nov-23	10	8	<b>8</b>
<b>6</b>	Broomfield Hospital	27-Nov-23	2	2	<b>1</b>
<b>7</b>	Northern General Hospital	28-Nov-23	5	5	<b>1</b>
<b>8</b>	Salisbury District Hospital	29-Nov-23	8	5	<b>3</b>
<b>9</b>	Darent Valley Hospital	22-Jan-24	11	11	<b>5</b>
<b>10</b>	Leicester Royal Infirmary	30-Jan-24			
<b>11</b>	Royal Cornwall Hospital	06-Feb-24	7	7	<b>2</b>
<b>12</b>	Scarborough General Hospital	19-Feb-24			
<b>13</b>	York Teaching Hospital	19-Feb-24	3	3	<b>2</b>
<b>14</b>	Wycombe General & Stoke Mandeville Hospitals	19-Mar-24	2	2	<b>1</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Russells Hall Hospital</b>	17-Apr-24			
<b>16</b>	Maidstone Hospital	25-Apr-24			
<b>17</b>	Salford Royal Hospital	30-Apr-24			
		<b>Total</b>	185	158	<b>88</b>



@PropherStudy



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM



**NIHR** | National Institute  
for Health Research



A multi-arm, multistage RCT of intra-operative interventions to reduce surgical site infection

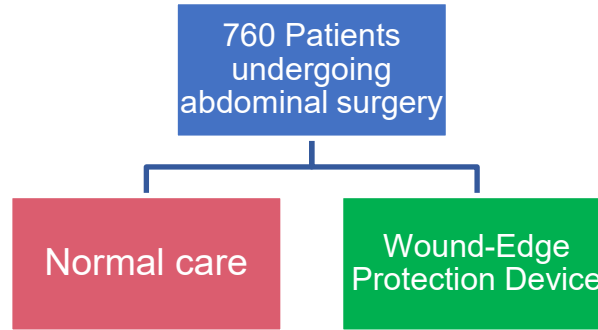


# Surgical site infection (SSI) – Background

- SSI:
  - Commonest post-operative complication
  - up to 25% (30%) of abdominal operations
- Significant ↑ morbidity, ↑ Mortality, ↑ costs
  - Doubles length of stay
  - Increased cost approx. £4000 per abdominal SSI
- Many interventions; most have poor evidence
- Likely to be multi-factorial in aetiology
- **PROBABLY PREVENTABLE**



# Planning a follow-on study to ROSSINI...

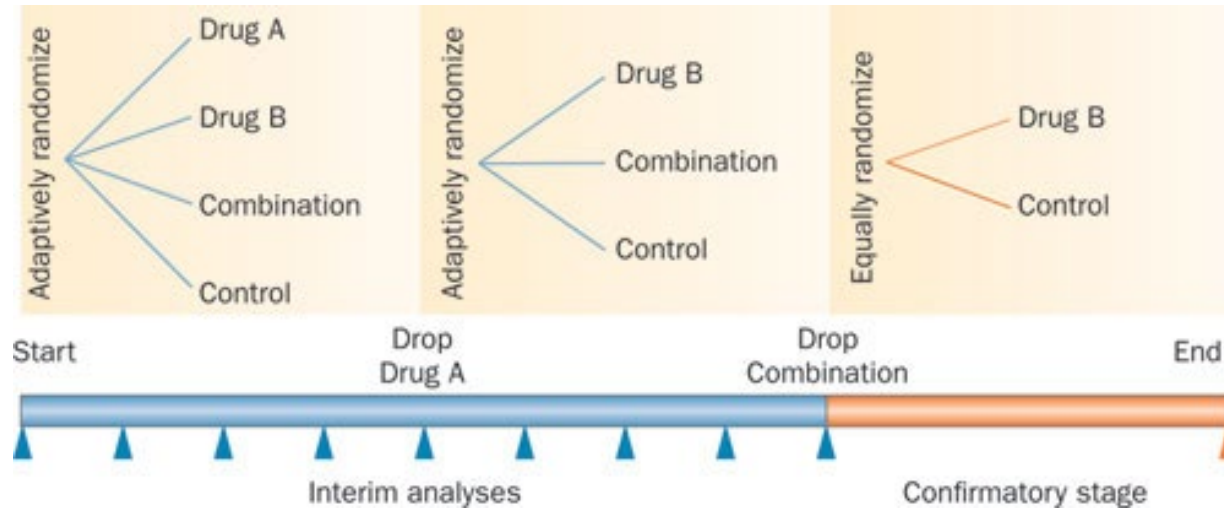


*Primary outcome of SSI is available,  
by definition,  
at **30 days** after surgery / randomisation*



# Multiarm, Multistage (MAMS) design

*exploits 30d outcome measure*





## ROSSINI II – Peri-theatre interventions which may reduce SSI rate...

~60 options

- Variably used in NHS practice
- Cost effective (potentially)
- Biologically plausible
- Explore interactions



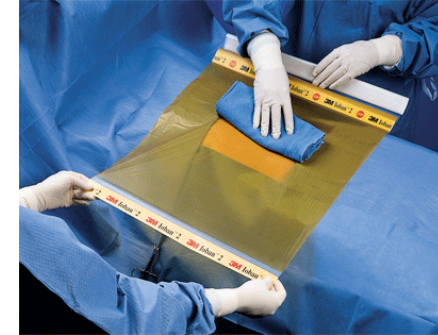
## A] Chlorhexidine 2% alcoholic skin prep

[versus any other standard wound prep agent of surgeon's choice]



## B] Ioban-impregnated incise drapes

[versus no drape]

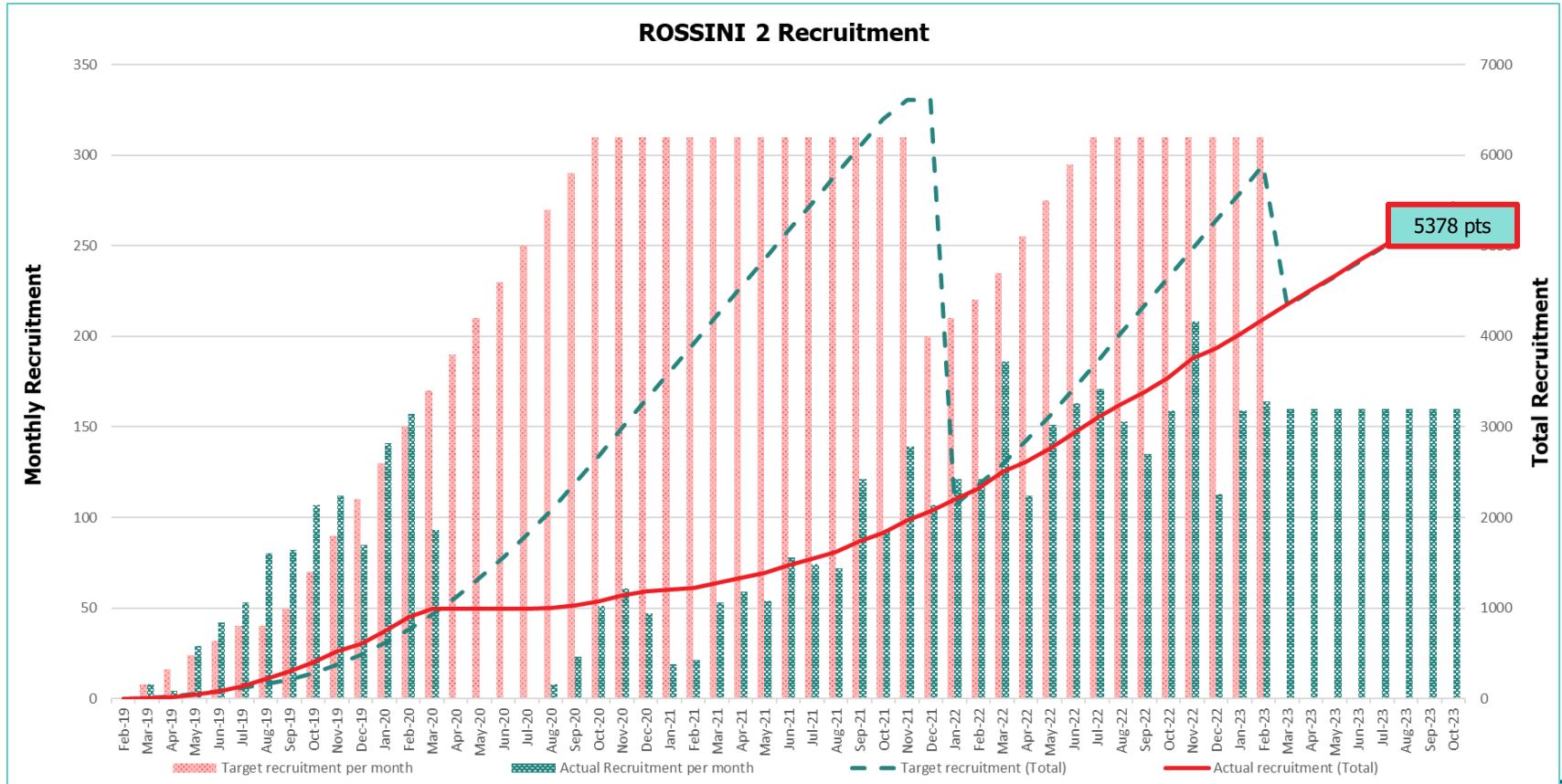


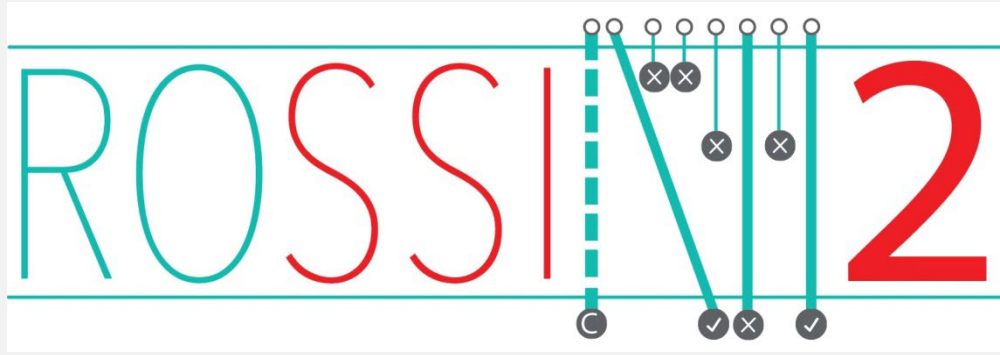
## C] Gentamicin-impregnated collagen sponge

[versus no sponge]



# Trial Update





**R**eduction **O**f **S**urgical **S**ite **I**nfection using several **N**ovel **I**nterventions

First Interim Analysis



## A] Chlorhexidine 2% alcoholic skin prep

[versus any other standard wound prep agent of surgeon's choice]



## B] Ioban-impregnated incise drapes

[versus no drape]



## C] Gentamicin-impregnated collagen sponge

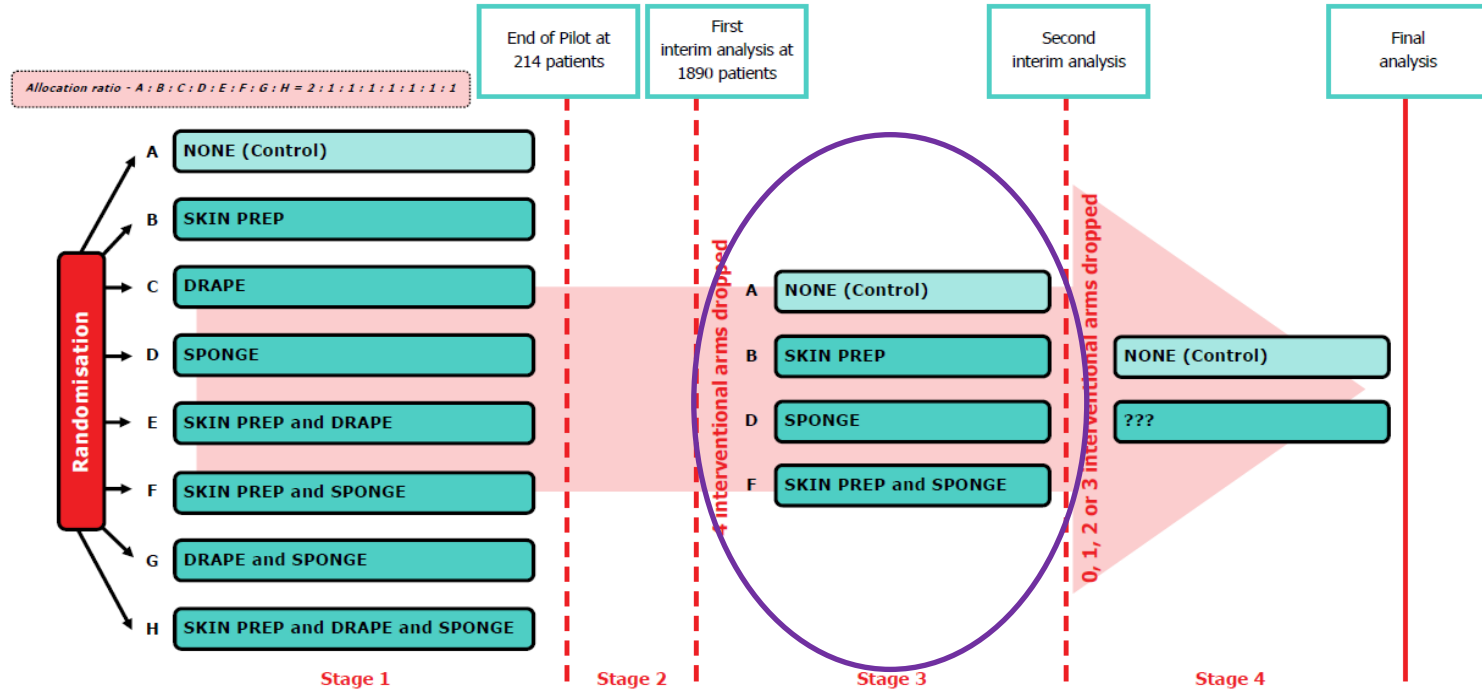
[versus no sponge]

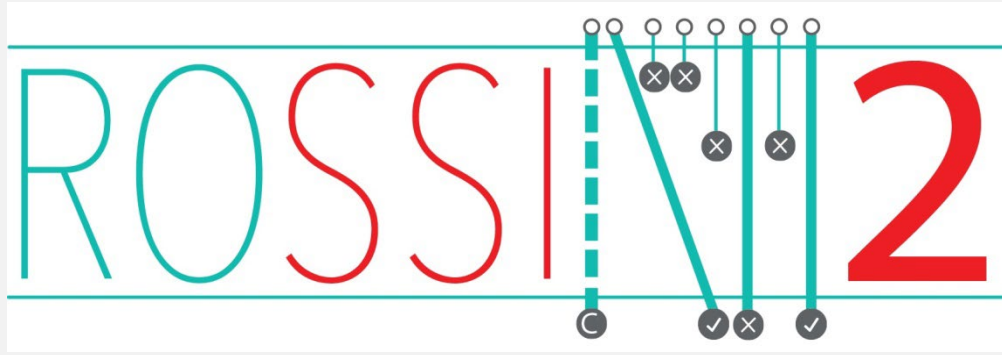


**Intervention 1** - 2% alcoholic chlorhexidine skin preparation [SKIN PREP]

**Intervention 2** - Iodophor-impregnated incise drape [DRAPE]

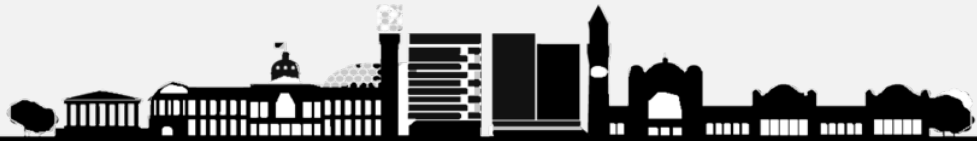
**Intervention 3** - Gentamicin-impregnated collagen sponge [SPONGE]





## Reduction Of Surgical Site Infection using several Novel Interventions

## Second Interim Analysis



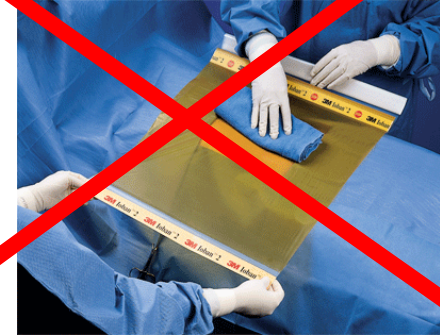
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[versus no drape]



## C] Gentamicin-impregnated collagen sponge

[versus no sponge]

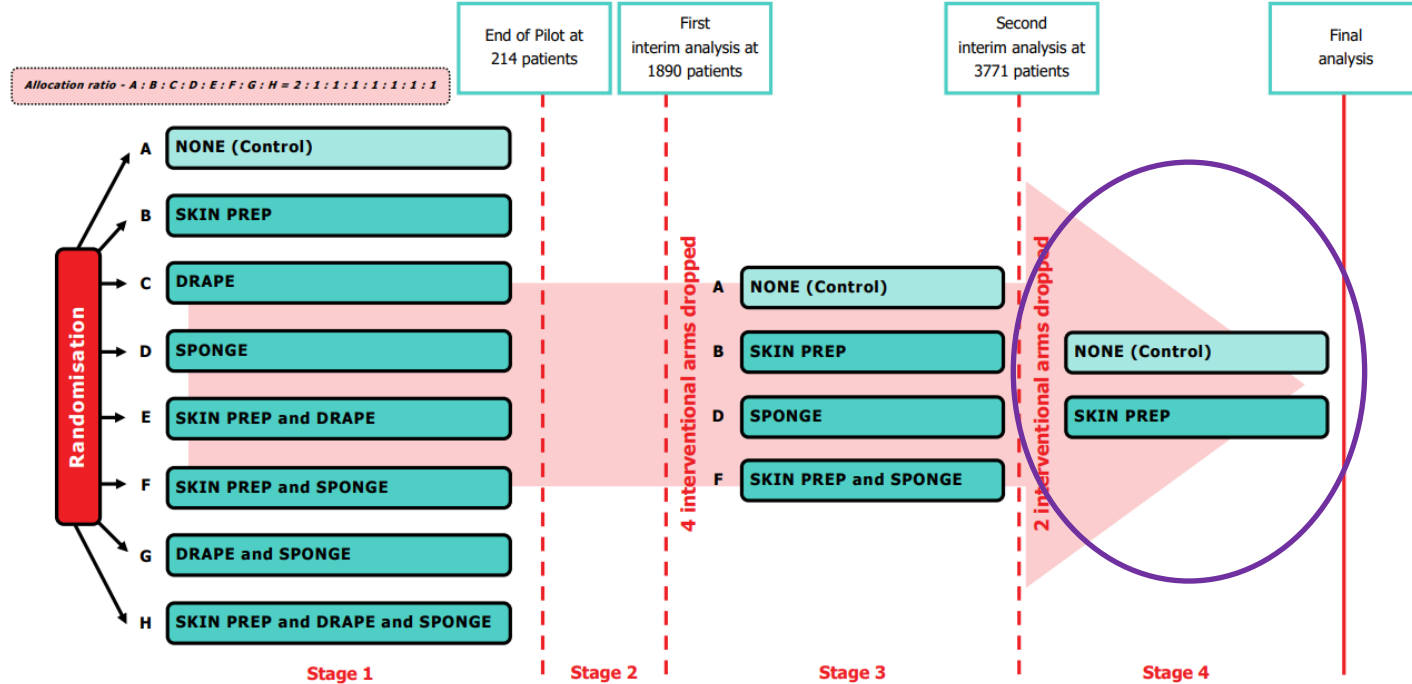




**Intervention 1** - 2% alcoholic chlorhexidine skin preparation [SKIN PREP]

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**Intervention 3** - Gentamicin-impregnated collagen sponge [SPONGE]



Randomisation will cease to arms demonstrating a lack of effectiveness or lack of benefit compared to the control arm.

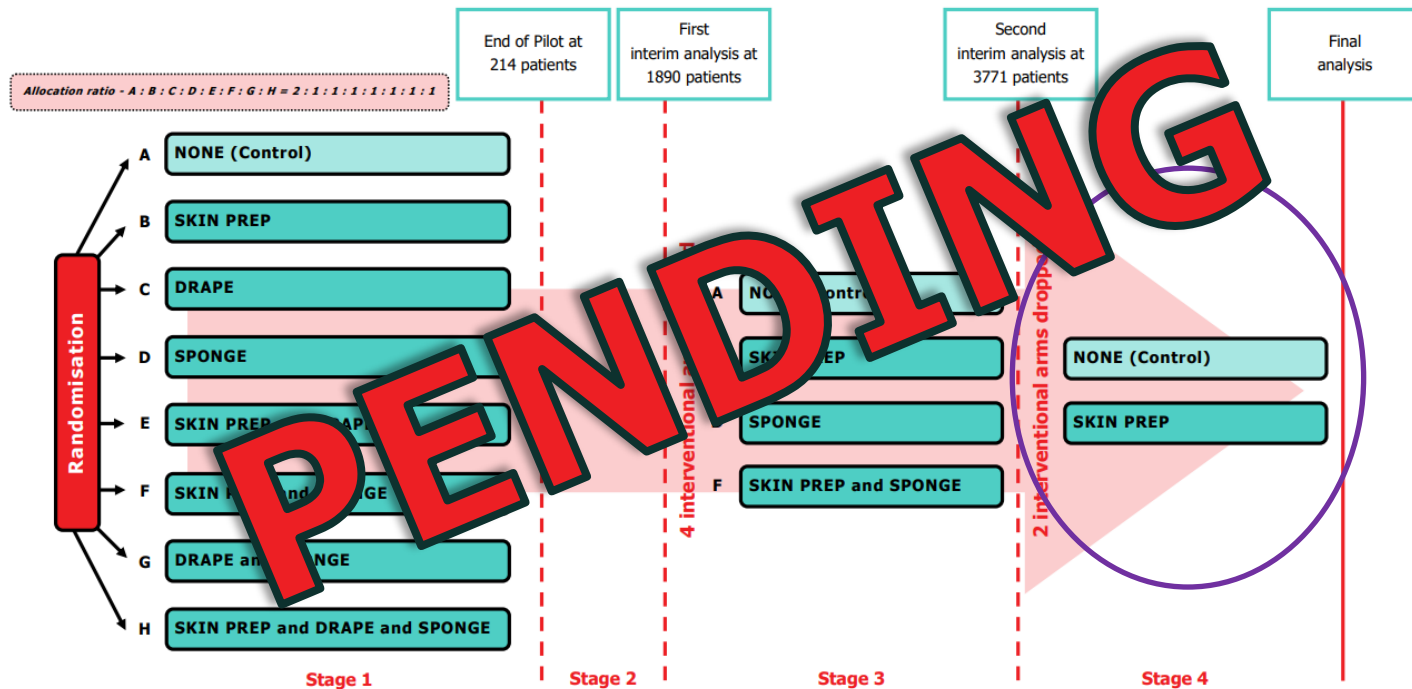


# Final Analysis results

**Intervention 1** - 2% alcoholic chlorhexidine skin preparation [SKIN PREP]

**Intervention 2** - Iodophor-impregnated incise drape [DRAPE]

**Intervention 3** - Gentamicin-impregnated collagen sponge [SPONGE]



Randomisation will cease to arms demonstrating a lack of effectiveness or lack of benefit compared to the control arm.



# ROSSINI 2 - Key Figures (mid-2023)



In the first 4000 patients:

- Control arm SSI rate = **20.3%**
- 96% were elective operations
- 62% were laparoscopic or lap-assisted operations

**So.....what about adding new intervention(s)?**



## Cluster randomised trial of sterile glove and instrument change at wound closure to reduce surgical site infection

On behalf of NIHR Unit on Global Surgery  
University of Birmingham (UK)

### Articles

## Routine sterile glove and instrument change at the time of abdominal wound closure to prevent surgical site infection (ChEETAh): a pragmatic, cluster-randomised trial in seven low-income and middle-income countries

NIHR Global Research Health Unit on Global Surgery\*

### Summary

**Background** Surgical site infection (SSI) remains the most common complication of surgery around the world. WHO does not make recommendations for changing gloves and instruments before wound closure owing to a lack of evidence. This study aimed to test whether a routine change of gloves and instruments before wound closure reduced abdominal SSI.

Lancet 2022; 400: 1767-76

Published Online  
October 31, 2022  
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(22\)01884-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(22)01884-0)  
See Comment page 1363

## CHEETAH Primary objective

Does **change of gloves and separate sterile instruments** before closing the abdominal wall reduce Surgical Site Infection (SSI) in clean-contaminated, contaminated, or dirty **abdominal surgery**

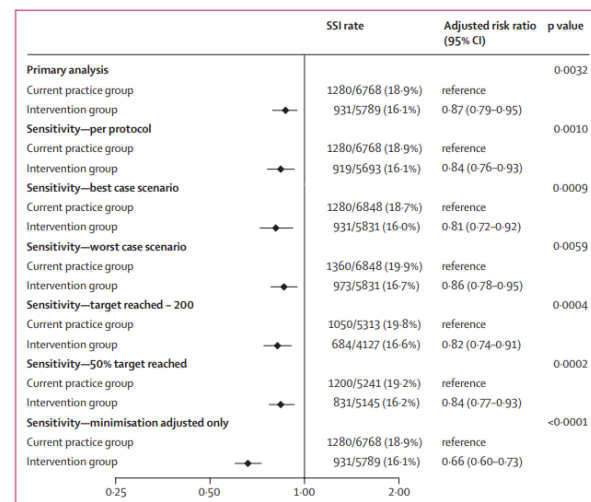


Figure 3: Primary and sensitivity analyses of the primary outcome  
Intraclass correlation coefficient for primary analysis model=0.06 (95% CI 0.05-0.07). SSI=surgical site infection.

**Interpretation** This trial showed a robust benefit to routinely changing gloves and instruments before abdominal wound closure. We suggest that it should be widely implemented into surgical practice around the world.

## Technology

- 2.1 Leukomed Sorbact (Essity), is a sterile, single-use, bacteria-binding, adhesive-bordered wound dressing. It is used to prevent surgical site infection (SSI) in closed surgical wounds that have low to moderate exudate.
- 2.2 The dressing comprises an absorbent non-woven wound contact pad and an outer transparent adhesive polyurethane film. The pad is made of a white viscose polypropylene and polyester mesh that is coated with the proprietary compound dialkylcarbamoil chloride (DACC). DACC is hydrophobic, meaning that it does not mix with water and tends to bind to itself or other hydrophobic materials if water is present. In a moist wound, DACC binds to hydrophobic bacteria and fungi that cause SSI. These bound microorganisms are then removed from the wound site when the dressing is changed. Binding to DACC does not cause bacteria to be lysed (broken open), which avoids causing inflammation at the wound site. The polyurethane film is designed to prevent contamination. The dressing

## 1 Recommendations

- 1.1 Evidence supports the case for adopting Leukomed Sorbact for closed surgical wounds after caesarean section and vascular surgery.
- 1.2 Leukomed Sorbact should be considered as an option for people with wounds that are expected to have low to moderate exudate after caesarean section and vascular surgery. It should be used as part of usual measures to help reduce the risk of surgical site infection. More evidence is needed on the use of Leukomed Sorbact on wounds after other types of surgery.
- 1.3 Cost modelling shows that the reduced rate of surgical site infection with Leukomed Sorbact compared with standard surgical dressings leads to savings of:
- £107 per person after caesarean section
  - £18 per person after vascular surgery.

By adopting this technology, the NHS may save up to £5.3 million per year for caesarean section and up to £1.2 million per year for vascular surgery. Cost savings are expected because fewer people will need to stay in hospital for treatment of surgical site infection. For more details, see the [NICE resource impact report](#).



Dressing is CE-marked and  
already available on UK  
market



# What's Next?

*"The delivery of most clinical trials is incredibly inefficient - it's like building a new stadium for every football game"*

*Munya Dimairo<sup>1</sup>, Sheffield Clinical Trials Research Unit*

Dear Professor Pinkney

**HTA Project: NIHR160509 – ROSSINI 2 EXTENSION - A Phase 3, multi-arm, multi-stage (MAMS), pragmatic, blinded multicentre RCT to evaluate the use of in-theatre interventions, alone or in combination, to reduce SSI rates in patients undergoing abdominal surgery.**

Thank you for responding to the concerns raised by the Funding Committee. Following consideration of your revised application dated 22 November 2023, I am pleased to inform you that your above-titled proposal has been recommended for funding. Please would you inform your co-applicants of the decision.



# ROSSINI 2 Extension Phase [Stage 5]

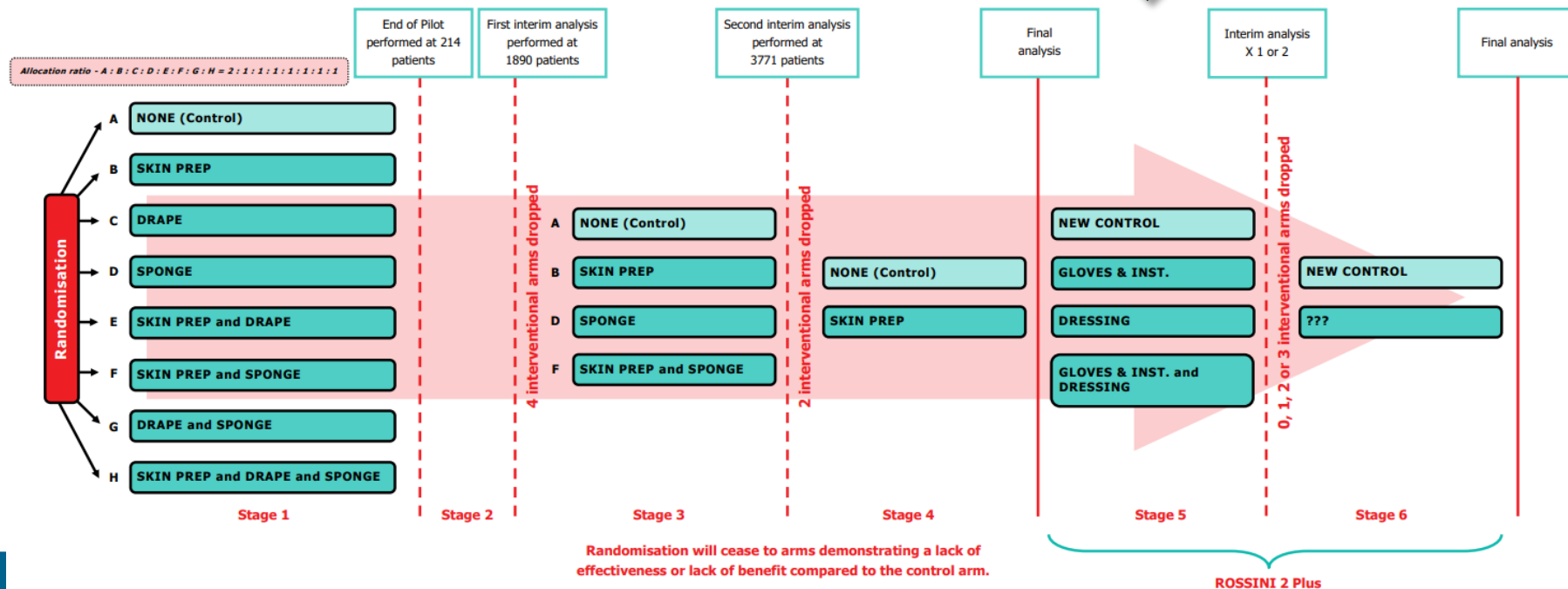
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**Intervention 3** - Gentamicin-impregnated collagen sponge [SPONGE]

**Intervention 4** - Change of Gloves & Instruments [GLOVES & INST.]

**Intervention 5** - Interactive Dressing [DRESSING]



# ROSSINI-Platform....

- ❑ SSI is a preventable complication across the *whole* of surgery
- ❑ Current guidelines/behaviours too generalised
- ❑ Different aetiological mechanisms/causative pathogens across the panoply of surgery
- ❑ An opportunity for evidence-driven stratification according to the **specific procedure** a patient is undergoing

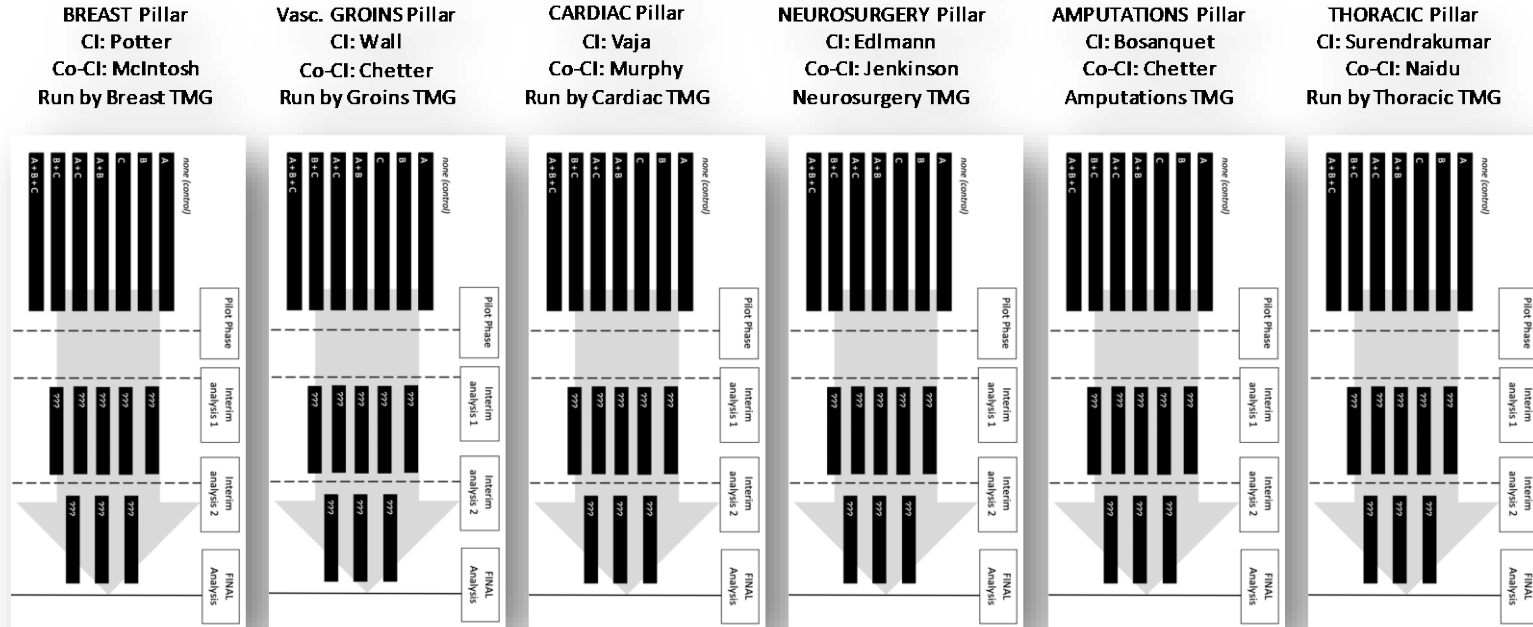




## ROSSINI-Platform – Proposed schematic for full trial

### EXECUTIVE TRIAL MANAGEMENT GROUP

Oversees generic trial processes and oversight of overall activity and outcomes within the separate pillar RCTs. Makes decisions about inter-pillar arm transfer, including adaptive randomisation decisions



Arms (single intervention or a combination of interventions) found to be effective within one pillar can be transferred into vacated slots within other pillars for rapid testing

ADAPTIVE RANDOMISATION may be utilised to more rapidly prove effectiveness of an arm (e.g. it has been shown to work within one of the other pillars), or to more rapidly drop an arm if a signal of potential non-effectiveness has been observed at interim analysis

# PROMISE IBD

Abi Patel, Katie Adams and ACPGBI IBD Subcommittee & PROMISE IBD Steering Group



The Association of  
Coloproctology of  
Great Britain & Ireland

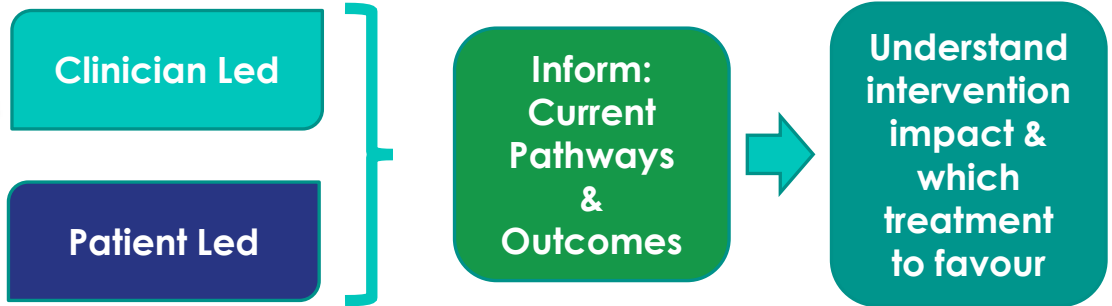


Birmingham Centre for  
Observational and  
Prospective Studies

# Overview

- Prospective national cohort study of IBD Surgery in the UK
- Collaboration between IBD clinicians and patients with IBD to collate information:

- Individual treatment
- Surgical Short Term outcomes
- Medium Term outcomes
- Long Term outcomes



# PROMISE IBD

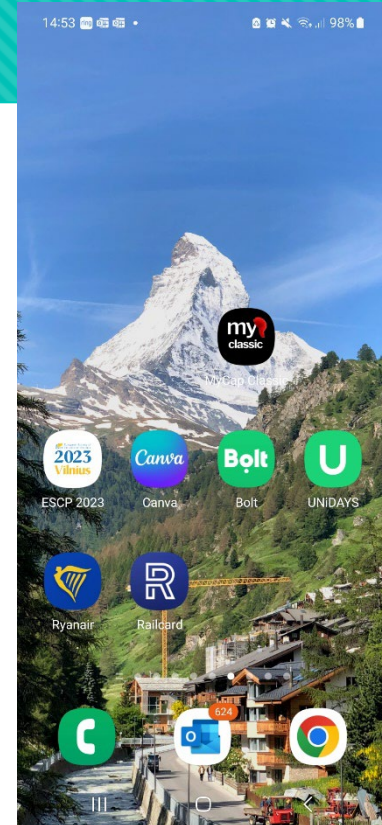
- UK wide multi-centre prospective cohort study
- Internal pilot phase: At least 10 hospitals, 100 patients
- Main study: Up to 100 hospitals across the UK, 1500-2000 patients
- Includes PROMS as a primary outcome
- PPI oversight group

# Eligibility

- Patients over the age of 16
- Undergoing abdominal surgery for IBD (proven or suspected)
- Any abdominal operation, including stoma reversal
- Elective and emergency presentations

# Patient Reported Outcomes

- Using validated PROMS to collect outcome data that matters to patients
- PROM selection in consultation with patients
- Will include quality of recovery, overall quality of life, bowel function, return to normal activities, decisional regret
- Collected via MyCap - directly from the patient
- Option for Patient self-enrollment



## Study Design

**Clinician-  
Reported**  
Reported by  
local surgeon  
via REDCap

**Patient-  
reported**  
Reported remotely by patient  
using REDCap via QR  
code/weblink, then links sent  
to patient email address

Pre-operative

Baseline patient demographic  
data

Baseline HR QoL, consent to  
long-term follow up

Intra-Operative

Surgical technique,  
complications

30 days

Short term  
complications, health  
resource utilisation

6 weeks

QoR15

3 months

HR QoL

6 months

HR QoL

12 months

Long term HR QoL, Change in  
treatment, re-intervention & Symptoms

36 months

Long term HR QoL, Change in  
treatment, re-intervention & Symptoms

# Patient directed research

- PPI Group involvement in full trial design
- HR QoL will vary depending on
  - IBD diagnosis
  - Treatment choice



# Patient Group Results & Feedback

- Questionnaire shared by CCUK – 80 responses!
- 90% - PROMS as primary outcome very important
- Want PROMS that cover items such as: bowel function, QoL, return to normal activities, fatigue, quality of recovery, mental health, and pain
- Happy to complete multiple PROMS at each time point if done via app on phone
- 51 volunteers for the PPI Group!

**Launching in  
Summer 2024**

# The (ongoing) future of surgical research

## Bigger, Better, More Impactful

- Even more collaborative
- Even more international
- Even more accessible

For the benefit of all of our patients





**For Clinical Research in Surgery**