



The national system to study the surgical management of a range of neonatal conditions – enabling national audit in neonatal surgery

Oesophageal Atresia Study findings published

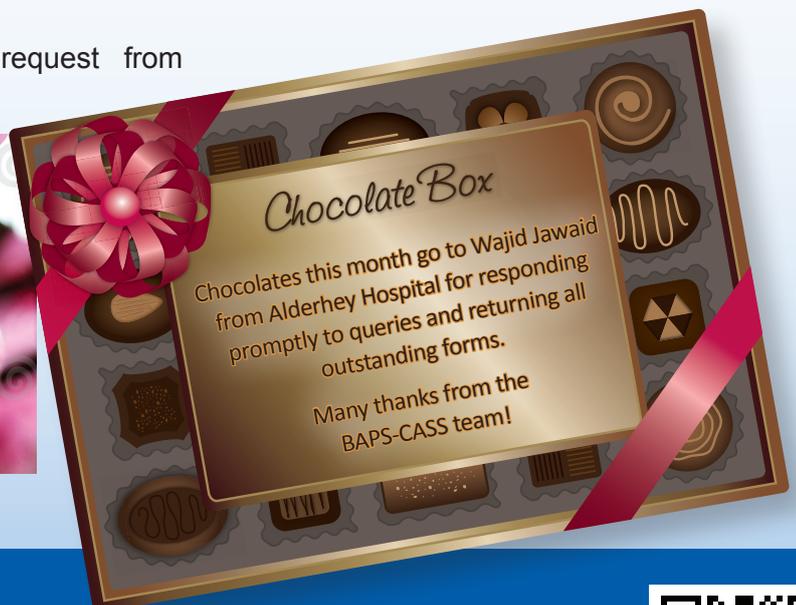
The results of the BAPS-CASS Oesophageal Atresia study have recently been published in the British Journal of Surgery. The aim of this BAPS-CASS study was to identify all infants born with oesophageal atresia in the UK and Ireland to describe current clinical practice and outcomes.

There were 184 cases of OA notified and completed data forms were returned for 157 (85%). There were two duplicate reports and four cases reported in error, thus 151 confirmed cases; this represents a prevalence of 1.7 per 10,000 live births (95%CI 1.5-2.0). Of these, 126 (83%) had OA with lower pouch TOF (type C, Gross classification), 15 (10%) had type A, six (4%) type B and four (3%) type E; none had type D. The findings suggested that some aspects of perioperative management were universal, including oesophageal decompression, operative technique and the use of transanastomotic tubes. However, there were a number of areas where clinical practice varied considerably, including the routine use of perioperative chest drains, postoperative contrast studies and antireflux medication, with each of these being employed in 30–50 per cent of patients. There was also a trend towards routine postoperative ventilation.

The prospective methodology used in this study has identified practices that all surgeons employ and also those that few surgeons use. In the absence of more robust evidence, it provides support for some current practices by virtue of the fact that most surgeons adopt them. There were a number of areas where practice is variable, and research is required to help guide best practice in the areas where clinical equipoise exists.

Reference: Burge DM, et al on behalf of BAPS-CASS. Br J Surg. 2013 Mar;100(4):515-21. PMID: 23334932.

Copies of the full paper available on request from
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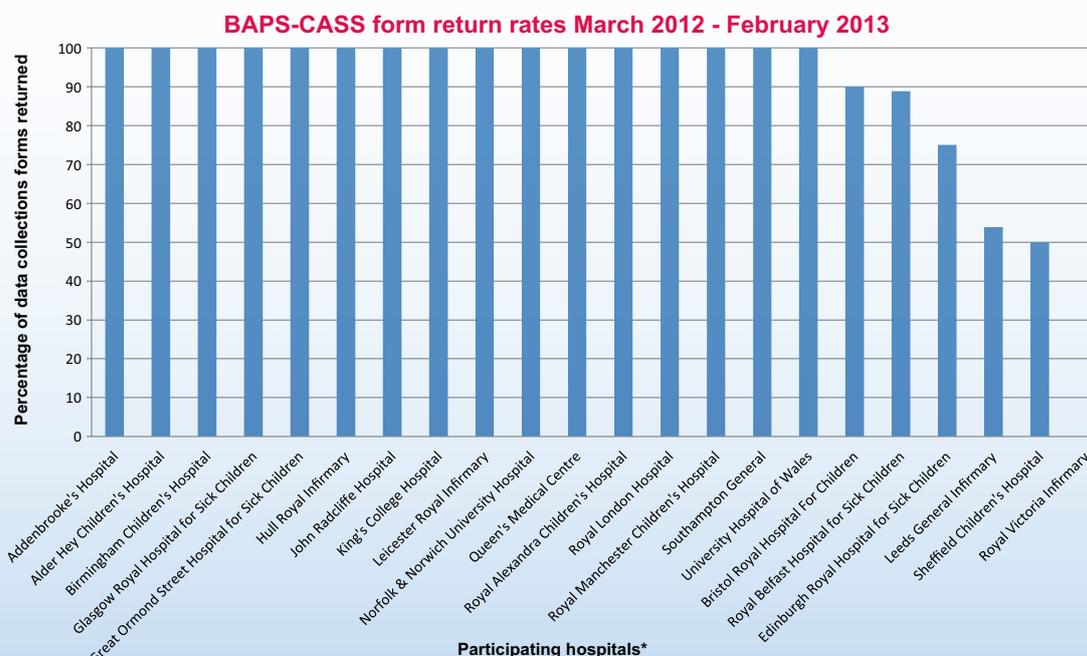
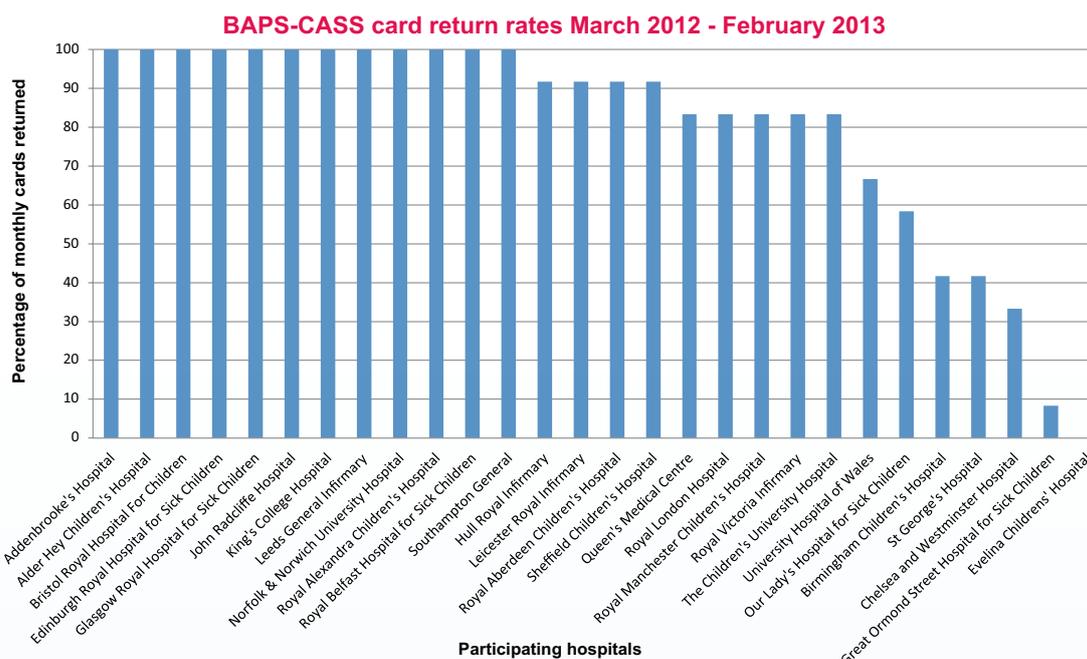
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Case report summary for cases reported up until April 2013

Condition	Cases Reported	Forms returned	Confirmed Cases	Unconfirmed Cases	Duplicate Cases
Hirschsprung's Disease	322	284 (88)	263 (93)	21 (7)	0
Hirschsprung's Disease 1yr Forms	263	137 (52)	137 (100)	0 (0)	0
Meconium Ileus	17	5 (29)	5 (100)	0 (0)	0
Necrotising Enterocolitis	Data collection recently commenced.				



(*) 6 hospitals reported no cases in the last 12 months: Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, Evelina Childrens' Hospital, Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital, St George's Hospital and The Children's University Hospital