



BAPRAS

British Association of Plastic
Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons

BAPRAS Pump Priming Report Form


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Project title:	The HAWAII Study - Hand and Wrist Trauma: Antimicrobial Sutures and Infection
Grant holder:	Justin Wormald
Institution:	NDORMS, University of Oxford
Co-applicants:	Abhilash Jain
Supervisor (if relevant):	Matthew Costa

Date of award:	1 st March 2021			
Grant awarded:	Clinical (tick box)	X	Lab research (tick box)	
Interim/ final report:	Interim (tick box)		Final (tick box)	
Study timeframe:	Start date	1 st Jan 2022	Expected/actual completion date	1 st October 2022
Lay Summary:	<p>Hand and wrist injuries, also known as hand and wrist 'trauma', account for 1 in 5 emergency hospital visits. Every year, over 5 million people in the UK are affected, from young working people to the elderly. The hand and wrist are important in daily life and for earning a living. Many injuries need surgery and there is a risk of infection afterwards. The risk is unknown, but it might be as high as 1 in 4 people. Also, little is known about the knock-on effects of infection, which might be severe, including amputation. At the end of surgery for these injuries, the skin is closed using stitches. Specially coated stitches, known as 'antimicrobial stitches', might reduce infection in the wound by killing nearby bacteria. Preventing infection after surgery could improve recovery, regaining hand and wrist function sooner, and could reduce NHS costs. We want to test the usefulness of these antimicrobial stitches with a clinical trial in the NHS.</p> <p>This small-scale study will look at antimicrobial stitches and infection. In this study, consenting participants with hand and wrist injuries from three hospitals in England will be allocated, by chance, into two groups. One group will get antimicrobial stitches during their surgery and one group will get normal stitches. There will be no other differences between the two groups.</p>			

	The purpose of this small-scale study is to test out the information we give to people and to see if people would be happy to take part. The practicalities of measuring infection after surgery will also be tested. The results will allow us to determine if we can conduct a larger study to see if the antimicrobial stitches do reduce infection in people having surgery for hand and wrist injuries.
Summary of progress:	<p>I have developed all necessary trial documents, which have undergone rigorous internal review by the Oxford Clinical Trials Research Unit (OCTRU).</p> <p>As of 10th November 2021, the HAWAII trial has had full ethical approval via NREC. We are now finalising database set-up and will begin to open at three sites in the New Year. I estimate that data collection will take <3 months and therefore we can expect to see feasibility results by Summer 2022.</p>
Key findings:	NA
Key issues:	NA

What is the relevance and value of this research to BAPRAS?	Antimicrobial coated sutures may help to prevent surgical site infections across all areas of plastic surgery. Currently there is limited evidence to support their use in trauma and reconstructive surgery. This feasibility study will pave the way for a definitive trial of antimicrobial sutures in hand trauma, which will determine if they are useful in preventing infections in this injury type – a large aspect of plastic surgery workload.
Presentations from this work?	This trial has been presented at the Oxford Trauma Society NIHR Trials Day – Dragon’s Den session, at the Oxford Trauma Cluster Meeting and at the NDORMS Student Symposium. I won the prize at the last event mentioned.
Publications from this work?	The trial protocol has been written up for publication and can now be submitted following ethical approval.
Future scope of work? e.g additional funding.	I have since secured an NIHR Doctoral Research Fellowship which will provide sufficient funding to complete this study.

Any further Comments?	NA
Signature of award recipient:	
Print name:	Justin Wormald
Date of submission:	11 th November 2021