



An Update on Research supported by Sydenham's Chorea Association (SCA)

Neuropsychiatric Complications in Sydenham's Chorea

(Principal Investigator, Dr Mallika Punukollu)

A description of the course of the movement disorder and associated psychiatric difficulties in twelve children and young people affected by neuropsychiatric aspects of Sydenham's chorea (SC), who had been seen in the Glasgow Paediatric Neurosciences service. This study brings together their accounts of their illness and motor function recovery, sometimes with continuing symptoms or relapses, together with the occurrence of psychiatric symptoms over time. Highly detailed interviews covering each individual's lifetime experience and brief neurological tests have been completed and analysed. A scientific paper is currently being written for publication. More detailed information will be available soon.

Neuro-Immunology Pilot Study

(Principal Investigator, Dr Marisa Linney)

This study, to obtain information from blood tests on patients and families who have been interviewed in the Neuropsychiatric study, is currently awaiting a response from the ethics committee. The aim is to guide further research into the immune process that is thought to be the cause of SC. The study will use new laboratory techniques in neuro-immunology in collaboration with the University of Glasgow.

Modern illness or a thing of the past? Surveillance study of childhood/adolescent Sydenham's chorea in the UK and the Republic of Ireland

(Principal Investigators, Dr Tamsin Newlove-Delgado & Dr Oana Mitrofan)

This study involves an ambitious collaboration between the SCA and neurologists, psychiatrists, a cardiologist and a Fellow in Public Health Medicine, who are a mix of NHS and university researchers based in Dublin, Exeter, Glasgow & London. A detailed initial proposal has been prepared and submitted to the British Paediatric Surveillance Unit and a similar proposal is being prepared for the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Surveillance System. This study aims to fill the gap in scientific knowledge of the current pattern of SC in the UK and Ireland by collecting anonymised information relating to all children and young people with new diagnoses of SC or re-referred with SC relapses and seen in paediatric and/or child and adolescent mental health services over a one-year period.

Dr Michael Morton, University of Glasgow
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