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&
Abstracts*

SILVER Trial - interim results

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Introduction

External ventricular drains (EVDs) are important in the management of raised intracranial pressure (ICP), both as a monitoring device or a therapeutic measure. However, complications arising from EVD placement, particularly infection of the CSF, can contribute to morbidity and mortality. Silver-coated EVDs may be effective against a spectrum of organisms without increasing the risk of antibiotic resistance.

The **SILVER Trial** (Silver Impregnated Line Versus EVD Randomised Trial) was set up to assess the clinical effectiveness of silver-coated EVDs against infection. This is a double-blind randomised trial comparing silver-coated EVDs to plain EVDs.

Methods

Patients who are admitted to the Department of Neurosurgery in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, for the management of their intracranial pathology are considered for the trial according to established inclusion and exclusion criteria. Patients who require an EVD are randomised to receive either a silver-coated EVD or a plain EVD. The primary end-point is cerebrospinal fluid infection and secondary end-points include duration of EVD placement and requirement for ventriculo-peritoneal shunting.

Summary

Interim results for the first 70 patients were analysed. 35 patients were recruited to each arm of the study. The overall infection rate was 12.9% (9/70). Study Arm A had an infection rate of 17.1% (6/35) whilst Study Arm B had an infection rate of 8.6% (3/35). Total length of placement ranged from 2-38 days. Infections occurred from day 1 to 38 (median = day 6).

Conclusion

The trial is currently recruiting. Analysis of the interim results is awaited from the data monitoring committee.