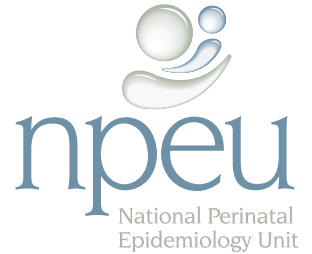




British Association of Paediatric Surgeons Congenital Anomalies Surveillance System (BAPS-CASS)



Newsletter 8: November 08

The national system to study the surgical management of a range of neonatal conditions

Spotlight



Nil Returns

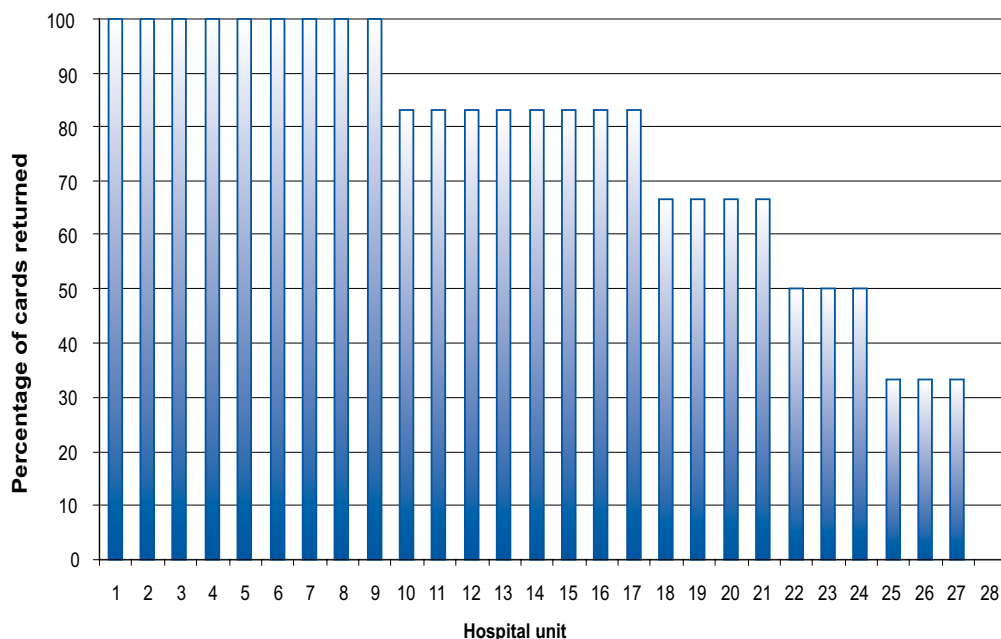
Why do we ask you to fill in 'nothing to report' cards?

Because these conditions are rare, missing information about one or two cases could make a big difference to our estimate of exactly how often these conditions occur. We therefore ask you to fill in a nil return so that we can be certain that there are no cases, and it is not simply that a case report has been lost in the post. In addition, national observational studies such as BAPS-CASS have important advantages over hospital-based case series, in that they are less susceptible to bias, in particular case-selection bias. Nil returns help us to ensure we are not inadvertently introducing such bias.

Surveillance which operates in this way is known as **negative surveillance**, as we are seeking both positive and negative case reports.

Oesophageal atresia data collection update

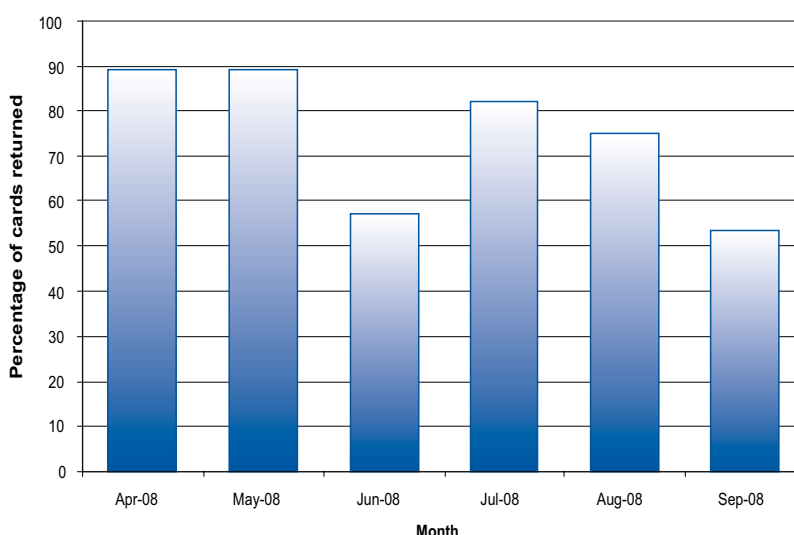
Thank you to all of you who have contributed data to the TOF/OA study. To date we have had 75 cases reported which is slightly fewer than the 100 we were expecting. We have received cards from most units in the UK and Ireland (figure), but as you can see the unit card return rate is very variable. **Only one unit has returned no cards**; three further units have returned only 33% of their cards. This may account for the slightly lower than expected case numbers. Please can we ask you to return all outstanding cards as soon as possible; if you believe you have lost any cards, please email your case reports to: baps-cass@npeu.ox.ac.uk.



Case Report Summary to 17/11/2008

Condition	Cases Reported	Forms returned	Confirmed Cases	Unconfirmed Cases	Duplicate Cases
Gastroschisis	435	411 (94%)	392 (95%)	7 (2%)	12 (3%)
Oesophageal Atresia	75	47 (63%)	45 (96%)	0	2 (4%)

Card Return Rates Oesophageal Atresia Study April-September 08



We have had very few cards returned reporting cases (or nil returns) for June or September.

Please can you check your in-boxes for missing cards and send them back to us as soon as possible, alternatively let us know by email whether or not you have any cases to report for those months.

Star hospitals

Thanks to the following units who have returned 100% of cards for the first six months of the TOF/OA study:

Bristol Royal Hospital For Children
Glasgow Royal Hospital for Sick Children
Hull Royal Infirmary
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital
Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital
Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle
Southampton General
University Hospital Lewisham

The Chocolate Box

Chocolates this month for David Wilkinson from Liverpool (our first double winner!) and Marcin Kazmierski from Cambridge for maintaining rapid and reliable card and form completion for the OA study. Enjoy them before any Christmas excesses!

Marian Knight/Sean Marven (Clinical Coordinators): **01865 289727**

Carole Harris (Administrator): **01865 289714**

email: **BAPS-CASS@npeu.ox.ac.uk**

web: **www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/BAPS-CASS**