Dear all,

You will remember that at the Annual General Meeting the following motion received unanimous support: "The British Hip Society believes that details of all surgery for femoro-acetabular impingement must be collected prospectively onto a single database linkable with NJR data."

NICE are preparing their guidance on open and arthroscopic FAI surgery. They have intimated that they are willing to insert in this guidance a suggestion that surgeons should enter details of these operations on a national database. However, they will only insert this guidance if it is certain that such a database will exist. NICE reports are written to precise timelines and the group considering this NICE report are due to meet in early May.

The BHS has been liaising with the steering committee of the NJR since it was hoped that this database might be formed and administered alongside the NJR. There was every indication from all the steering committee members approached that this would gain universal support. The decision to endorse the request for a NAHSR was reliant upon the outcome of a NJR Steering Committee meeting which was scheduled for this week. Unfortunately the appointment of a new lay Chairman of that body led to the postponement of this meeting whilst she was inducted into the mechanics of the NJR. This means we cannot tell NICE unequivocally that the NJR will deliver this database.

Another option, which might even be preferable, is for the BHS to create and run this database with a view to it being
linked at some point in the future with NJR, HES and with PROMS data. BESS and other specialist societies are looking into commissioning similar databases. I have already circulated a draft minimum dataset. I have sought several quotations for the formation and running of this register. Although the quote is not yet finalised, it appears that the database can be created for approximately xxx. This is well within the budget of what we can afford (I believe we presently have approximately xxx on reserve and xxx cleared in the current account).

It could be argued that running this database empowers the Profession and it would certainly give notice to HQIP and NJR that we are serious in our intent to collect and validate the outcomes of our interventions. It would also make it clear to them that we are able to collect this data without them (and the constraints they have historically imposed upon us!).

John Hodgkinson has indicated that he would be happy for BHS funds to be used in this way. If we do not make the decision to do this the NICE advice will be almost worthless and we will have lost the opportunity for several years to move forward with this. If we do create this database within a few years we will have the very best data in the world.

John Hodgkinson has asked for a telephone conference to be set up (Claire, Please can you set up a call for 1st May?) but in the meantime I may need to respond to Bruce Campbell (NICE Chair) about the certainty of this database being formed.

Please can you let me know by replying to this e-mail "yes" or "no" whether you are happy for me to move forward on this and commit funds?

Many thanks
John
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