

Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in Research – Case Study

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**How patients and the public are involved**

We ran a pilot for a study comparing outcomes in treatments for nailbed injuries in children. The pilot highlighted a few issues we needed to address – mainly completion of the follow up assessments.

We ran a focus group of 6 parents (and one toddler) to address some of the issues.

We also presented the study to the Young Peoples Executive Group (YIPpEe) based at the JR hospital and we asked for their suggestions to address patient recruitment, information portals, patient retention, outcomes etc.

**The impact of involving patients and public in the study.**

Feedback from both groups was extremely positive about clinical research in general, and also greatly influenced the final design of the trial.

They had definitive ideas about how the study assessments should be conducted, what the outcome should be that is assessed, and also how the follow up data could be collected.

Their ideas and suggestions not only addressed the issues raised in the pilot study, but also highlighted an outcome we hadn't considered that important previously. The outcome of the appearance of the nail is now a co-primary outcome.

**The importance of involving patients and the public in research**

For any research, involving the public is vital to ensure we haven't overlooked anything and that their needs are considered in the pragmatics of a project. However, I felt PPI was particularly relevant and effective with the paediatric population this study involves.

**The biggest challenges in PPI and what might help to overcome them**

The biggest challenge in the PPI in NINJA was the recruitment of people for the focus group. In the end we pulled together a group of parents known to one of the researchers from the school gates! This proved effective; however if there was a more formalised way to recruit or identify groups this could be less stressful for all involved!