

The Wessex AsThma CoHort (WATCH) difficult asthma study; integrating research into the clinic.

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*The authors gratefully acknowledge the participation of all of the clinical and research study volunteers and thank them for their commitment and enthusiasm that contributed to these excellent results.

Introduction

The **WATCH Study** is a longitudinal study of patients under the **Difficult Asthma Clinic at University Hospital Southampton, UK. To create a better real life understanding of difficult asthma (British Thoracic Society (BTS) step 4/5), a process of clinical dataset compilation, meeting clinical and research needs, was adopted.**

Methods

One objective was to trial feasibility of longitudinal data collection in a large outpatient clinic cohort. Other aims included;

- a) Merging research and clinical objectives; meeting needs of the BTS Difficult Asthma registry plus data collation needed for research purposes**
- b) Ensuring all eligible patients have the opportunity to participate in research, current and future.**
- c) Gathering all relevant clinical data to support clinical phenotyping**
- d) Ensuring data was collected in a time efficient manner**

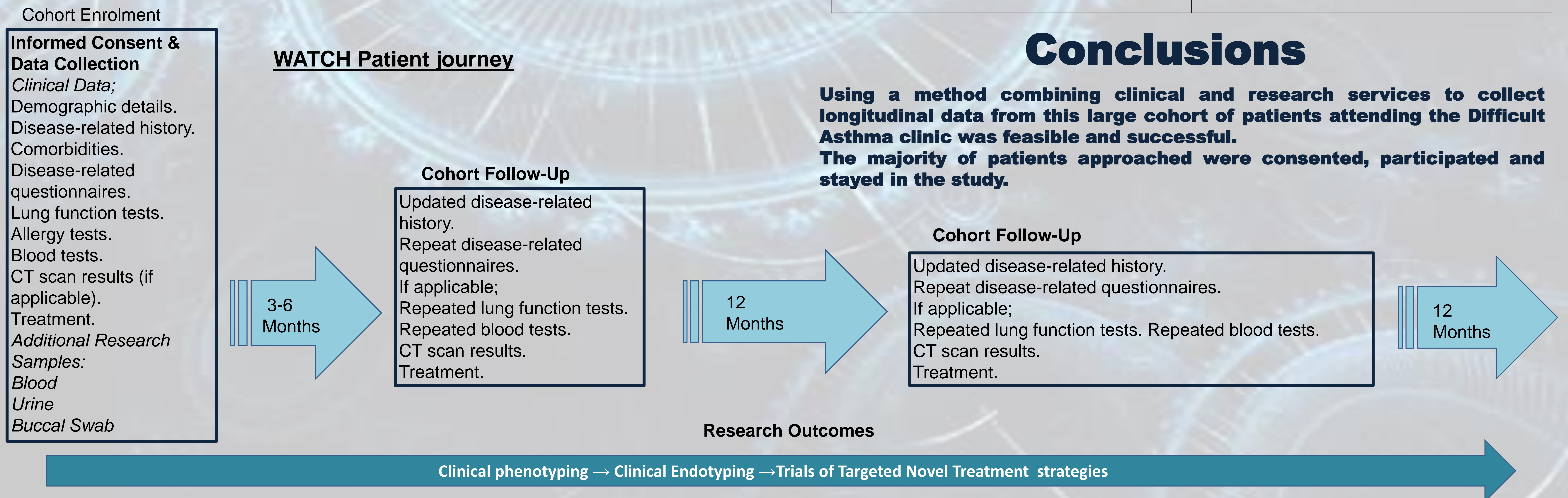
Results

Number of patients recruited to date	279
Recruitment rate	18.6 per month
Total recruitment failures; due to lack of asthma severity	17
Number declining participation	14
Number withdrawn (no reason given)	2

Conclusions

Using a method combining clinical and research services to collect longitudinal data from this large cohort of patients attending the Difficult Asthma clinic was feasible and successful.

The majority of patients approached were consented, participated and stayed in the study.



Acknowledgements

NIHR Southampton Respiratory Biomedical Research Unit and NIHR Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility are funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and are partnerships between University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Southampton. This research was supported by the NIHR Southampton Respiratory Biomedical Research Unit and the Southampton NIHR Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility. The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NHS, the NIHR or the Department of Health.

Impact of the Wessex AsThma CoHort (WATCH) study on recruitment to research

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Introduction

WATCH is a longitudinal observational study of patients under the Difficult Asthma Clinic at University Hospital Southampton (UHS), UK.

Enhanced asthma phenotyping in the study helps improve patient care, as well as identifying patients suitable for research. These patients may otherwise be missed due to divide between clinical and research goals.

One objective was to measure the impact of large outpatient cohort recruitment on patient enrolment rates in asthma research.

Methods

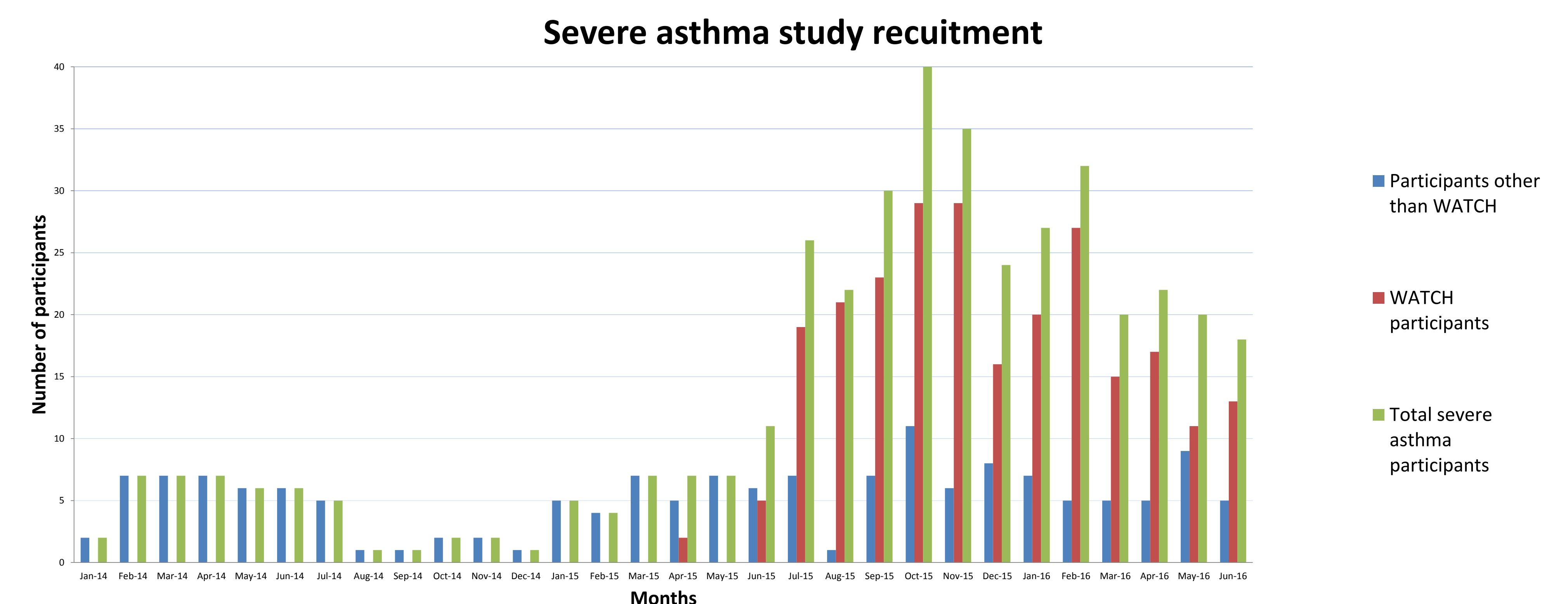
Adult Severe asthmatics (British Thoracic Society (BTS) step 4 or 5) were recruited to WATCH from the Difficult Asthma clinic at UHS.

Recruitment to other severe asthma studies was from this clinic in addition to other clinical facilities and specialist groups in Wessex and surrounding areas.

Monthly recruitment numbers are calculated for adult severe asthmatics PreWATCH (Jun 2014-May 2015) and PostWATCH (Jun 2015-May 2016).

Results

Total number of severe asthma patients recruited in 12 months PreWATCH was 48. Total number of severe asthma patients recruited in 12 months PostWATCH group was 309. This includes patients recruited to WATCH itself (n=232) but also those recruited to non-WATCH adult severe asthma studies (n=77). Percentage improvement in recruitment to severe asthma studies PostWATCH was 60.4%. Overall improvement in recruitment (including WATCH) showed a percentage increase of 543.8%.



Conclusions

Preliminary analysis suggests improvement to overall recruitment following commencement of WATCH. Further planned analysis will include qualitative questionnaires, and will hopefully show both positive impact on recruitment rates, as well as improvements to patient care and clinic/research experience.

Acknowledgements

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