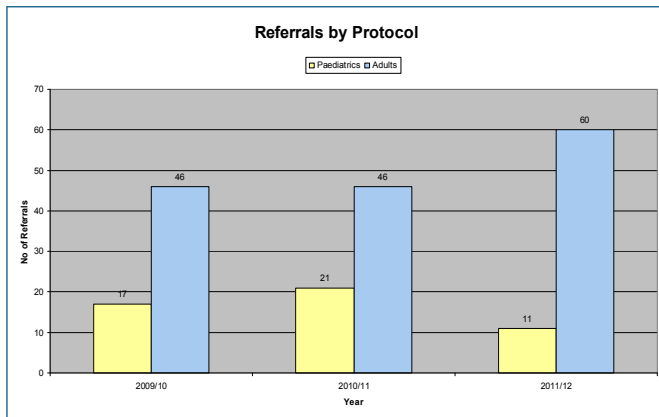


Progress Report 2011/12

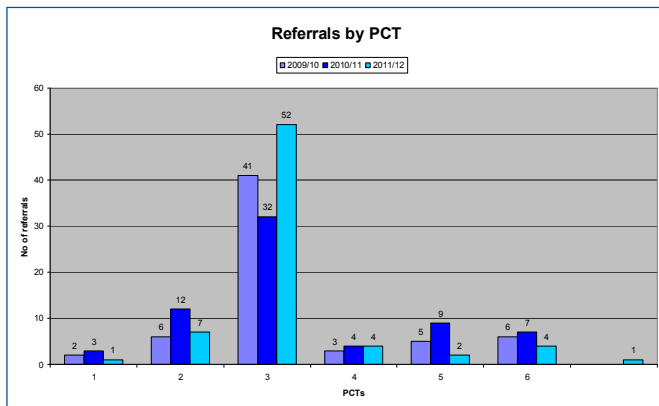
South Central Specialised Commissioning Group (SCSCG)

The South of England Cochlear Implant Centre (SOECIC) provides its services to patients residing in the following PCTs within the South Central Area: Oxfordshire, Berkshire West, Berkshire East, Hampshire, Southampton City, Portsmouth City Teaching and Isle of Wight. This report is for the period ending 31st March 2012. Data for the previous two years has been included for comparison purposes.

Referrals from South Central Area



SOECIC receives referrals for assessment for cochlear implantation from Audiology and ENT specialists. In 2011/12 SOECIC recorded a decrease in the number of paediatric referrals, but a significant increase (30%) in those for adults. In the South Central area 85% of the referrals are for adults. During the past year SOECIC did see a slight gender difference, with 62% of the referrals being male.



The above graph shows that referral rates across the PCTs are variable. This is due to the low incidence of profound hearing loss. This makes it difficult to accurately predict numbers of potential candidates especially from the North.

Transferred patients

During the year 2011/12, nine patients were transferred into SOECIC who had already been implanted with a cochlear implant prior to referral, the same figure as for 2010/11. Six patients transferred from SOECIC to other implant centres.

Key to graphs

- 1 Berkshire East PCT
- 2 Berkshire West PCT
- 3 Hampshire PCT
- 4 Isle of Wight PCT
- 5 Portsmouth City Teaching PCT
- 6 Southampton City PCT
- 7 Oxford PCT

Discharges

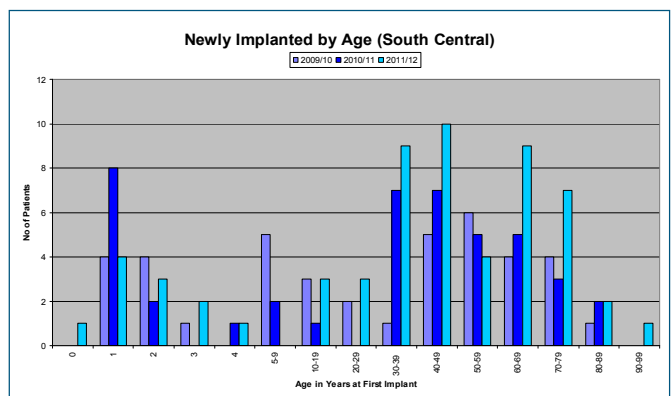
Twenty patients referred for assessment were discharged prior to cochlear implantation in 2011/12. The reasons for discharge were: eight of the patients were audiolgically not within NICE TAG 166 but 6 of them had progressive losses; two patients withdrew prior to initial assessment; two patients had difficulty attending appointment and eleven patients decided not to proceed for reasons including investigating alternative treatment and concerns re surgery.

Pathway from team decision to operation

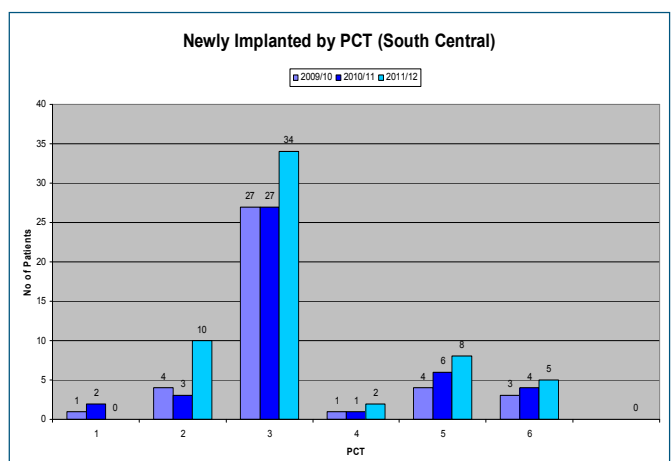
The South Central Specialist Commissioning Group asked SOECIC to monitor the 18 week care pathway from the date of the SOECIC team decision that the patient would benefit from a cochlear implant. After taking account for "stop the clock" events such as delay for funding approval, additional treatment or due to patient preference 100% of the SCSCG patient cohort were implanted within the 18 week care pathway specified. The average time from Team decision to Date of implant was 7.6 weeks.

Newly Implanted Patients - South Central Area

We treat patients of all ages. There is a trend to implanting younger children. At SOECIC we aim to implant babies at around 12 months of age and this is now possible due to early identification of hearing loss. As the graph below shows, there has been an increase in implants across the board, but in particular in the 60+ bracket.



As expected most of the patients having cochlear implants in the South Central area are from the Hampshire PCT.

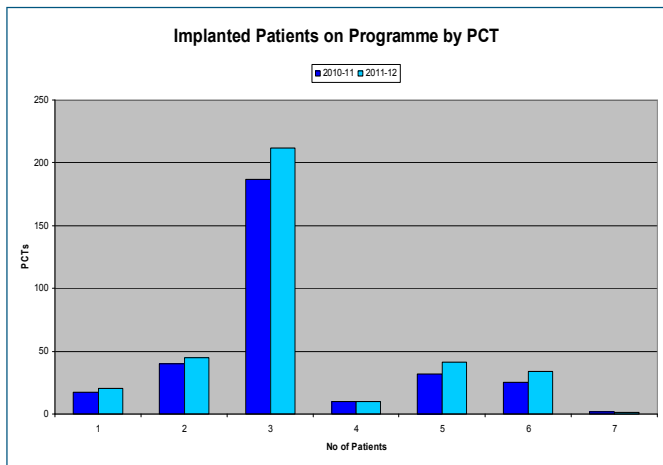
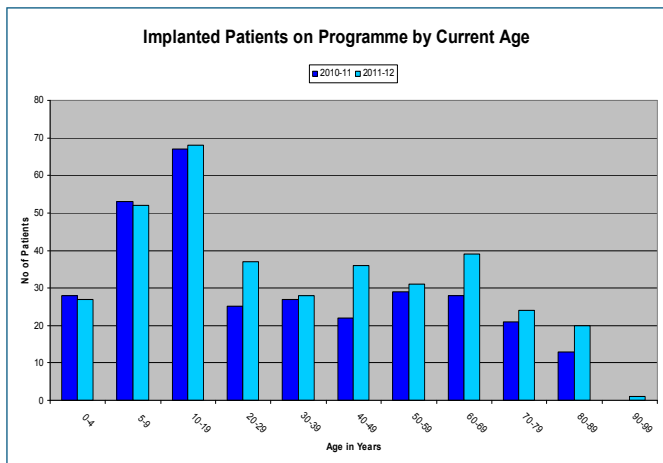


Failures, Re-implantations and Non-Users

In the year 2011/12 four patients from the South Central area had their implants removed due to device problems and all were subsequently re-implanted in the same ear. There are three patients who are no longer able to make use of their cochlear implants within the South Central Area who have not had their implants removed.

All Implanted Patients in South Central Area

Patients with cochlear implants need access to a maintenance programme. Patients have regular reviews to ensure that the cochlear implants are continuing to function optimally. Just under half of the total number of patients are under the age of 30.



Contralateral implants

In total, 16 children from the South Central area had contralateral implants funded by their PCT to enable hearing in both ears.



Upgrades

SOECIC has a policy of upgrading processors every five years (if there is a new model available). Over the past year SOECIC has been able to upgrade the CI24 patients to the CP810 processor. The patients have reported that they prefer the new processor which delivers a crisper, clearer sound.



PCT	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Berkshire East	1	0	6
Berkshire West	1	0	8
Hampshire	5	4	34
Isle of Wight	0	1	3
Portsmouth City	2	1	5
Southampton City	2	0	5
Oxford	1	0	0

The table above shows the numbers of patients who have had a processor upgrade over the past 3 years to 31/03/12.

Audits

In 2011/12 the SOECIC team carried out a patient satisfaction survey for patients implanted during the year 9/10 based on the use and benefit of the implant as reported by the patients. 100% of the patients are continuing to wear their devices “always”. All the adults reported they get a “great deal” of benefit from their implants. Similarly, all but one of the children’s parents reported that their child gets a “great deal” of benefit, and that child has significant special needs and was reported to get “a lot” of benefit.

Contact us

For further information please see our website www.soecic.org or email soecic@soton.ac.uk.

