

February 2020

Dear Colleagues,

The newly developed Upper GI surgery Research Collaborative, sponsored by the Royal College of Surgeons, AUGIS and Heartburn Cancer UK are looking for interested groups to contribute and collaborative in a multicentre study on the provision of anti-reflux surgery in the United Kingdom.

The Audit and Review of Anti-Reflux Operations and Workup (ARROW) study aims to report current UK practice in the pre-, intra- and post-operative management of patients undergoing anti-reflux surgery. The study requires a short registration survey regarding your current practice and prospective of data collection (12 months from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020). This assesses adherence to a variety of audit standards and therefore can be run locally at trusts by registering it as an audit.

### Why the ARROW study?

Work-up and surgery for the treatment of gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD) represents a large proportion of the upper gastro-intestinal surgeon's workload. There is considerable variation in the UK in anti-reflux surgery practice from the use and interpretation of diagnostic tests to day-case rates to type of procedure undertaken. Few trials have been able to support the use of one procedure or approach over another. We hope a national, collaborative, prospective audit will quantify this variation in UK practice and give us the baseline data to help inform future studies.

### What do I need to do?

- **Survey** - Once we have received your expression of interest, an ALEA (data management service) login will be emailed to you to allow data entry in the prospective ARROW audit. This will initially allow you to complete a bespoke online registration survey on your unit and current practice.
- **Register audit** - Once you have registered the ARROW study with your local audit department, send confirmation of this approval to [arrowsurgerystudy@gmail.com](mailto:arrowsurgerystudy@gmail.com), which will then give you access to the patient data side of the database.
- **Data collection** - Prospective data collection for 12 months from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 will record the indication, pre-operative investigations, operative technique and short-term outcomes of all patients undergoing anti-reflux surgery using an online platform. Patient identifiable data will not be collected as part of the study. 90-day follow up of patients will lead to data collection ending summer 2021.
- **Feedback** - Individual sites will only have access to data collected via their site. A summary will be fed back to each site at the end of the audit, comparing local data with national, allowing for local presentation of the information.

### How will ARROW help?

The results from ARROW will lead to peer-reviewed papers into current service provision in the UK, and this in turn will lead to the development of further research projects to improve provision of anti-reflux surgery. We hope that by establishing an online platform and a collaborative network quality assurance and improvement can be implemented and audited easily.

If you'd like more information or want to get your hospital involved (or have a junior colleague who wishes to do so), please contact [arrowsurgerystudy@gmail.com](mailto:arrowsurgerystudy@gmail.com) or more information can be found on our website ([arrowstudy.co.uk](http://arrowstudy.co.uk)).

Kind Regards

The ARROW Collaborative