As summer starts to fade and the leaves begin to fall, the CARE team would like to thank you for your continued involvement and interest in the study – we couldn’t do it without you!

The past few months have brought about plenty of challenges and successes that have helped to shape our research focus and this newsletter will hopefully guide you through the current status of the study.

If there is anything specific that you would like to see in future newsletters, please do not hesitate to contact us at mpsrc2@gmail.com.

**Enrollment Update - 31 Patients Enrolled**

**Enrollment is COMPLETE!**

Of the 31 enrolled patients, 5 have withdrawn from the study and 13 have recently completed the study – congratulations to the children and their families!

We continue to appreciate patients’ timely visits to the Pediatric Clinic, and for punctually completing all of the questionnaires. We would like to thank the doctors, nurses, and residents for helping to facilitate and direct this process, as well!

All of our patients have successfully completed the pre-operative stages of the study, and most patients are currently approaching the post-insertion 3 (or 6 month) visit.

We look forward to continually expanding our post-operative database in the next couple months, with a handful of patients on track to complete the study before the New Year!

With the projected completion of the project in August 2012, we are no longer actively seeking new patients. We currently have an incredible group of dedicated children and parents, and we appreciate the work of those who have been referring potential patients to the CARE study!

**C.A.P.S. Conference**

On September 22, 2011, we travelled to the 43rd annual Canadian Association of Pediatric Surgeons (C.A.P.S.) conference in Ottawa, where we presented some of the preliminary findings of the CARE study.

Our first presentation, a poster entitled “Feasibility of Conducting a Prospective Cohort Study in Pediatric Surgery: Introducing the CARE Study,” was widely received by conference attendees, and was able to help educate surgeons from across the country on the success and the challenges we have had with our CARE study.

In addition to the quantitative findings of CARE study, we also had the opportunity to present a podium presentation, entitled “Understanding the Impact of Child Gastrostomy Tube Placement on Caregiver’s Quality of Life: A Qualitative Phenomenological Approach,” which focused on the more qualitative impacts of pediatric G-tube insertion on caregiver quality of life. Through interviews with a small cohort of caregivers involved in the CARE study, we were able to present our findings about the emotional dimension of caregiver quality of life, and this research was warmly welcomed at the conference, as well.

As you can probably tell, the CARE study has been gaining significant momentum over the past year. Again, thank you for your continued interest in the CARE study, and we look forward to sharing the study results with you as they become available.

Sincerely appreciative,

Dr. Mark Walton MD, FRCS
Principle Investigator, Pediatric General Surgeon

and the CARE Research Team

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