

## **BSA SIG spotlight May 2022**

The committee has been very busy recently with the reviewing and finalising both existing and new Recommended Procedures. Following the absence of some committee members, we're now back to full strength and have a renewed focus on catching up with all of our guidance. In particular, the combined cervical and ocular VEMPs Recommended Procedure has finally been completed following some additional modifications and has now been sent for peer review. It was a great team effort to work through the list of comments and recommendations and incorporate them, but we got there. A huge thanks particularly goes to Vicky Kennedy for her hard work with leading this. In terms of other documents, it's hard to think that it's been over five years since the very first Recommended Procedure on Positioning Tests was produced, but this is also now due for review and the committee will begin working on this shortly. Leading on from this, an idea was put forward at our last committee meeting about producing an additional Recommended Procedure with accompanying video resource aimed at testing and treating rarer forms of BPPV. Whilst there are some resources already available, BIG's aim would be to try and provide a more consistent 'go to' guide for clinicians, highlighting best practice. More updates will be provided as this progresses, so do watch this space.

Other items the committee have been working on have included ongoing analysis of the National Survey, which compared current provision against the 2009 Good Practice Guidelines. The next stage for this is submission for peer reviewed publication. This will highlight to commissioning groups the need for greater equivalence of services across the country, as well as underline the importance of vestibular testing within Falls Clinics and other multidisciplinary settings. The committee is also completing its comments on the draft NICE guidelines on assessment and prevention of falls in older people. An update on these guidelines was requested by the Department of Health and Social Care with the consultation period for the draft scope ending this month. As mentioned previously, a significant omission has been vestibular assessment and in particular, testing and treatment of BPPV, which is associated with a significantly increased risk of falls. BIG will continue to raise awareness of vestibular disorders and ensure these are considered in the shaping of national guidelines and policy.

At our last committee meeting, we also discussed the reintroduction of face-to-face conferences and the possibility of a BIG balance course in early 2023. This would include lectures followed by supportive 'how to' workshops. Specific topics may cover vestibular management, vHIT and VEMPs, however, we welcome requests from our readers and members in order to identify areas that would be of particular interest.

Finally, we must mention that some members of the BIG committee will be reaching the end of their term towards the end of this year and so we invite members with an interest in applying for a committee place to get in touch via the BSA.