**DAMASCUS Newsletter September 2020**

**October 1st 2020 Launch Day**

Many thanks for your patience over the last 6 months. We appreciate that life has not returned to normal and may not do so for some time. We have therefore taken the decision to proceed with opening DAMASCUS, for the sites which are ready, on **October 1st 2020**.

We appreciate that this date will not suit everybody due for a variety of reasons, but particularly due to Covid surges and repurposing of staff. However, we recognise that as a global study a single start date that suits everyone is impossible in the current climate. We have therefore decided to proceed with a *rolling start* from the 1st October, once a site has officially opened, they will recruit eligible patients for six months with a further six months follow up after that. We anticipate that the site opening window, when new sites will still be able to join the study, will be open for at least 3-4 months and potentially longer depending on progress.

**Covid updates to eCRF**

Given that some recruitment will take place during Covid surges we have added a few questions to the CRF that briefly cover whether Covid status (patient or unit) influence management of patients at any point.

**Steps required to recruit to DAMASCUS**

Many of you have kindly updated the changes to your teams, if you have not yet completed please follow the instructions below as soon as you can.

1. Register your interest here <https://is.gd/DAMASCUS>
2. Ensure you have audit department approval (UK sites), IRB approval (US sites) or local/national ethical approval (all other sites)
3. REDCap logins will be issues shortly before the launch date. You will receive an email with log in, protocols, CRF’s, user guides and site initiation slides.

On behalf of the DAMASCUS study team, thank you so much for helping us with this study, which we hope will be one of the largest global studies of acute diverticulitis ever undertaken.

**Contacts**

You can contact the study team at the addresses below and follow us on twitter @Damascus\_study.

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