Abstract 1319 Table 1 Association between son-preference and girls' height-for-age z-scores (HAZ), weight-for-age z-scores (WAZ) and Bayley Scales (BSID-III) scores at 18 months, assessed by mixed-effects linear regression. Change in Estimates (CIE) are shown for the predicted mean of each son-preference group versus the no son-preference ('none') group

Adjusted for cluster and trial arm																	
Predicted anthropometrics								Predicted BSID-III scores									
Son- preference	n (%)	HAZ			WAZ			Motor			Cognitive			Language			
		Mean	CIE (95% CI)	p	Mean	CIE (95% CI)	p	Mean	CIE (95% CI)	p	Mean	CIE (95% CI)	p	Mean	CIE (95% CI)	p	
None	391 (66.4)	-1.61	constant			-1.27	constant			95.4	constant			93.3	constant		
Any	198 (33.6)	-1.87	-0.26 (-0.44, -0.08)	0.004*	-1.41	-0.14 (-0.31, 0.03)	0.104	93.1	-2.32 (-3.95, -0.68)	0.006*	91.7	-1.63 (-3.43, 0.17)	0.076	89.3	-3.75 (-6.15, -1.35)	0.002*	
Birth-only	101 (17.2)	-1.72	-0.11 (-0.33, 0.11)	0.337	-1.31	-0.03 (-0.25, 0.18)	0.758	94.6	-0.80 (-2.89, 1.28)	0.450	94.3	+1.00 (-1.29, 3.29)	0.393	94.0	+0.89 (-2.13, 3.92)	0.562	
12-months	97 (16.5)	-2.03	-0.41 (-0.64, -0.19)	<0.001*	-1.52	-0.25 (-0.48, -0.03)	0.025*	91.5	-3.89 (-6.01, -1.77)	<0.001*	89.0	-4.37 (-6.70, -2.04)	<0.001*	84.5	-8.60 (-11.68, -5.52)	<0.001*	

Quality Improvement and Patient Safety

1320

IMPACT OF IMPLEMENTING THE PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE ROLE IN PAEDIATRIC SURGERY IN A UK CENTRE

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Background Physician Associate's (PA) are professionals that are trained to the medical model and work alongside a consultant supervisor. The medical workforce within the NHS is evolving constantly and junior doctors are ever changing members of the clinical team and are increasingly being diverted away from service provision. Great Ormond Street Hospital has responded to this change by recruiting PA's to support provision of care.

Objectives Our aim was to review early implementation and the impact on clinical practice in our unit.

Methods The surgical department initially recruited 5 PA's. At the time of employment all had passed the National Exam and were on the National Register (MVR). Three of the five posts were funded through charitable funds and were recruited directly from the PA Master's course at St. George's University, London.

For other two posts the application process was open to candidates nationally, internationally and on the MVR.

All PA's underwent a prolonged period of induction and orientation within the respective clinical teams.

Results During induction PA's were supernumerary to the junior doctor body. Following this they were integrated into respective teams and performed ward based duties. Now PA's are fully part of the SHO day time rota which increased the exposure for Core Surgical Trainees to further attend theatre sessions and other relevant training activities.

There has been a subsequent reduction in the need to recruit locum doctors along with improvement in continuity of care and audit of clinical practice. Due to current licensing

Abstract 1320 Table 1

	PA	Doctors	Significance
Median age at biopsy (days, range)	30 (2–306)	31.5 (1–393)	NS
Mean number of specimens	2.73	2.65	NS
Non- Diagnostic procedures	1 (2%)	9 (18%)	0.0155 (p<0.05)
Complication rate	1 (2%)	2 (4%)	NS

restrictions PA's are unable to prescribe or authorise ionising radiation investigations but can be trained in procedural care. One such procedure is rectal suction biopsy which has been audited within the department showing the PA performance is on par with medical peers (table 1).

The level of responsibility expands with the length of time a PA works within a department. They are involved in designing protocols and care pathways to maintain the highest level of care.

With the recent pandemic PA's became part of the COVID Acute Surgical Rota ensuring continuity of care was maintained along with working with a wider range of complex surgical patients. Giving PA's the opportunity to expand their clinical skill set and maintain the highest level of patient care.

To maintain a high level of professional development one PA is working closely with the post graduate medical team to develop an educational framework for all PA's across the entire Trust.

Conclusions PA's have the necessary skills to perform to a high standard even in areas of complex clinical care.

They work within the healthcare team and are trained to assess, examine and management care alongside doctors. They are a vital link to all other healthcare personnel and provide continuity in an environment where junior doctors change frequently and are increasingly difficult to recruit.