

Title: Octopus Trial Update – December 2023

You and Octopus

The Octopus team would like to thank you for your continued patience following your registration of interest for the Octopus trial. As you are receiving this email, we can confirm that you have successfully registered your interest in Octopus.

Based on the questions you have answered so far, we know that you might be suitable to join Octopus. There are around 100 people who have registered an interest to participate at each site. We have asked sites to try to contact people in order of their date of registration and those close to the upper age limit of 70 years old.

So depending on your age and when you registered your interest, your chosen Octopus hospital site may contact you by telephone, to discuss your answers to the survey and to ask more questions to see if you can take part. This may take several months (or possibly longer). As you will see below, stage 2 will be taking place for several years, so do not worry if you have not received contact from your chosen site, you are still on our registered interest list. We apologise for the wait and thank you for your patience.

A snapshot of Octopus numbers so far

Octopus hospital sites are now telephoning people who have identified them as their preferred hospital. If the telephone conversation shows you appear to be eligible for the trial, you will be asked to go to your chosen site to sign consent and have the tests needed prior to joining the trial.

We are pleased to let you know that so far:

- 275 potential participants have been through telephone screening by their chosen site.
- 134 have attended their chosen hospital site for further screening and to give consent.
- 101 participants have entered the Octopus trial and started trial treatment.

Stage 1 (expected until December 2024) – we hope to enrol 375 participants.

Stage 2 (expected to recruit between January 2025 and December 2028) aims to recruit at least a further 1200 participants.

Octopus sites

We are pleased to update you that the trial is now open in 10 hospital UK sites:

- Addenbrooke's Hospital (Cambridge)
- Belfast City Hospital
- Leeds General Infirmary

- Poole Hospital
- Royal Hallamshire Hospital (Sheffield)
- The Anne Rowling Regenerative Neurology Clinic (Edinburgh)
- University College Hospital London (UCLH)
- University Hospitals of Coventry and Warwickshire
- University Hospital Southampton
- University Hospital of Wales (Cardiff)

Work also continues to open other hospital sites around the UK. Some may take longer to open than others; the time taken includes getting local approvals, setting up contracts, arranging MRI scan providers, as well as training researchers at each site.

PLATYPUS – Octopus in Australia

You may also have seen about sites opening in Australia in a part of a sister trial called PLATYPUS. If you would like to read more about PLATYPUS, please refer to: <https://www.mssociety.org.uk/research/latest-research/latest-research-news-and-blogs/introducing-platypus-australian-extension-our-octopus-trial>

More information

The Octopus trial will continue to send you updates around every 3 months. But please also do keep checking the Octopus website (www.ms-octopus.info), which provides further information on the details of the trial, including when hospital sites open, and frequently asked questions and news about sites and the trial.

For information on MS research and for practical support for MS, please refer to the MS Society website (<https://www.mssociety.org.uk/care-and-support>).

If you would like to know about other MS Clinical trials available, please refer to <https://www.mssociety.org.uk/research/take-part-in-ms-research/be-in-a-study>.

We thank you again for your patience. We look forward to an increase in the rate that participants are contacted as more sites get opened and working with you to make OCTOPUS a success.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a super New Year.

Best wishes,

The Octopus team