

INvestigational Study Into Transplantation of the Uterus (INSITU); Screening of uterine transplant recipients in the UK

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Introduction

Uterine transplantation (UTx) is a feasible fertility restoring intervention for women with absolute uterine factor infertility (AUI). Whereas AUI affects one in 500 women of childbearing age, there is limited data on demand and suitability to undergo UTx in this population.

Aim

To identify the motivations amongst women with absolute uterine factor infertility (AUI) to undergo uterus transplantation (UTx), characterise their background demographics, determine reasons for considering UTx over adoption and surrogacy and assess suitability.

Methodology

An electronic questionnaire was sent via email between 1st May 2019 and 1st November 2019. The questions assessed suitability to undergo UTx based on demographic information, perceptions to adoption and surrogacy and reasons why UTx was preferable. Completed questionnaires were assessed according to the study selection criteria to determine suitability to proceed with undergoing UTx.

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Results

210 women participated. The most common aetiology of AUI was MRKH (68%; n=143) whereas 29% (n=62) had previously undergone hysterectomy. 48% (n=30) were undertaken because of cancer, the most common of which was cervical cancer (n=22; 73%). In those undertaken for benign disease (n=32), the most common indication was massive obstetric haemorrhage (n=13; 41%). 16% (n=33) were parous. 63% (n=132) of the cohort had previously considered adoption, 5% (n=11) had attempted it, and two (1%) had successfully adopted. The most common reason cited to undergo UTx over adoption was to experience gestation (n= 63; 53%), while 37% (n=44) wanted a biologically related child. 76% (n=160) of participants had previously considered surrogacy, 22 (10%) had attempted it and two (1%) had successfully become mothers using a surrogate. The most common reason to undergo UTx over surrogacy was to experience gestation (n=77; 54%). 15% n=21) were concerned about the legal implications, 14% (n=20) identified the financial cost as a barrier and 8% (n=12) could not consider it due to religious reasons. On adhering to the selection criteria, 65 (31%) women were suitable to proceed with the trial.as summarised in **Figure 1**.

Conclusion

This is the largest and most detailed screening analysis of women with AUI who have interest in UTx. Our findings highlight important novel insights into such women, including their perceptions toward UTx and alternative options to acquire motherhood.

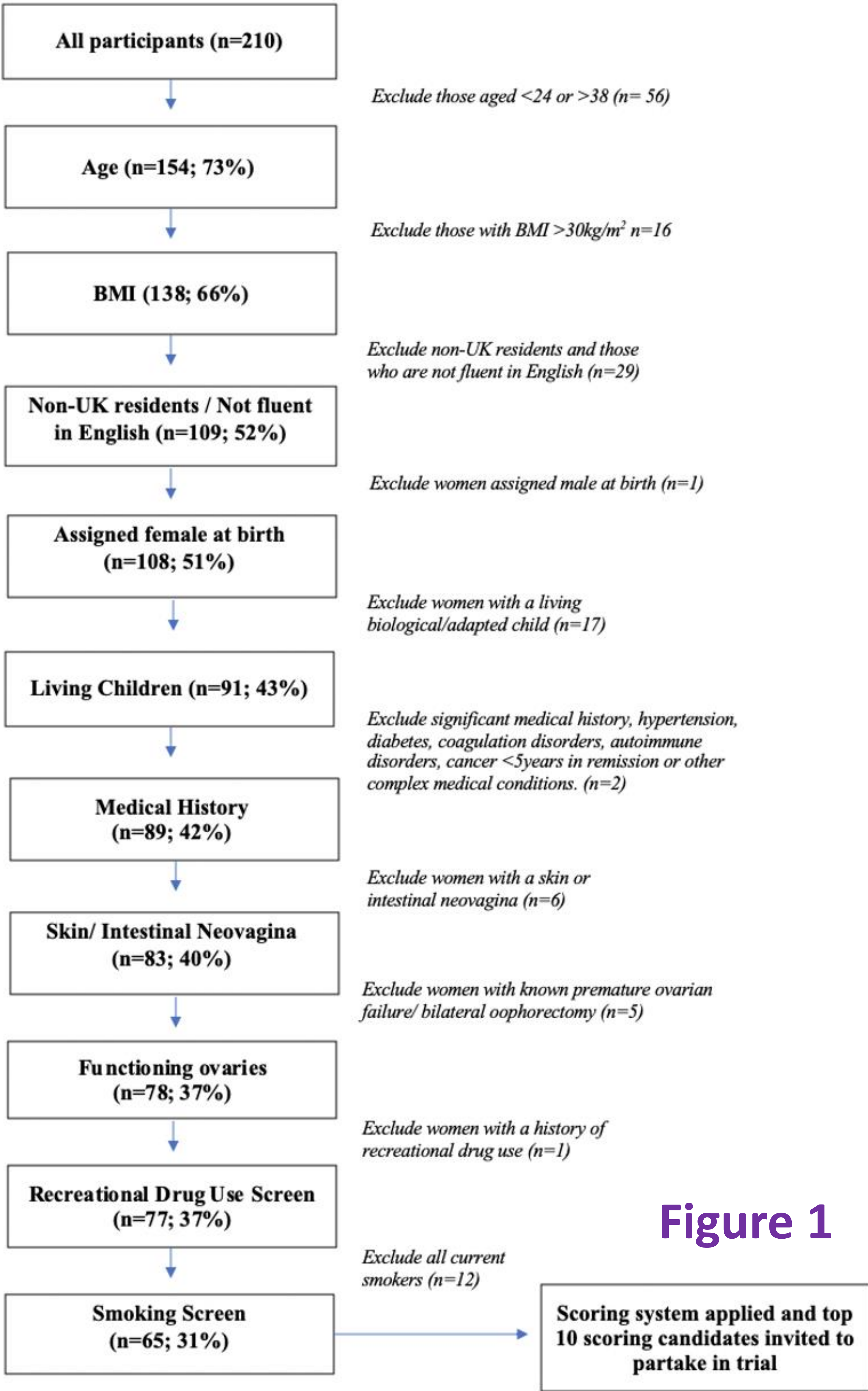


Figure 1