



Clinical trial results:

A double blind randomised parallel group trial of paracetamol versus placebo in conjunction with strong opioids for cancer related pain.

Summary

EudraCT number	2016-000197-38
Trial protocol	GB
Global end of trial date	31 August 2018

Results information

Result version number	v1 (current)
This version publication date	02 July 2021
First version publication date	02 July 2021

Trial information

Trial identification

Sponsor protocol code	AC15006
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Additional study identifiers

ISRCTN number	-
ClinicalTrials.gov id (NCT number)	NCT02706769
WHO universal trial number (UTN)	-

Notes:

Sponsors

Sponsor organisation name	ACCORD (University of Edinburgh and NHS Lothian)
Sponsor organisation address	47 Little France Crescent, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, EH16 4TJ
Public contact	Professor Marie Fallon, University of Edinburgh, 0044 01316518600, marie.fallon@ed.ac.uk
Scientific contact	Professor Marie Fallon, University of Edinburgh, 0044 01316518600, marie.fallon@ed.ac.uk

Notes:

Paediatric regulatory details

Is trial part of an agreed paediatric investigation plan (PIP)	No
Does article 45 of REGULATION (EC) No 1901/2006 apply to this trial?	No
Does article 46 of REGULATION (EC) No 1901/2006 apply to this trial?	No

Notes:

Results analysis stage

Analysis stage	Final
Date of interim/final analysis	26 June 2019
Is this the analysis of the primary completion data?	Yes
Primary completion date	31 August 2018
Global end of trial reached?	Yes
Global end of trial date	31 August 2018
Was the trial ended prematurely?	No

Notes:

General information about the trial

Main objective of the trial:

To establish whether paracetamol in combination with strong opioids provides superior analgesia for cancer related pain over strong opioids alone.

Protection of trial subjects:

N/A

Background therapy: -

Evidence for comparator: -

Actual start date of recruitment	19 June 2016
Long term follow-up planned	No
Independent data monitoring committee (IDMC) involvement?	Yes

Notes:

Population of trial subjects

Subjects enrolled per country

Country: Number of subjects enrolled	United Kingdom: 28
Worldwide total number of subjects	28
EEA total number of subjects	28

Notes:

Subjects enrolled per age group

In utero	0
Preterm newborn - gestational age < 37 wk	0
Newborns (0-27 days)	0
Infants and toddlers (28 days-23 months)	0
Children (2-11 years)	0
Adolescents (12-17 years)	0
Adults (18-64 years)	7
From 65 to 84 years	20
85 years and over	1

Subject disposition

Recruitment

Recruitment details: -

Pre-assignment

Screening details:

N/A

Period 1

Period 1 title	Baseline (overall trial) (overall period)
Is this the baseline period?	Yes
Allocation method	Randomised - controlled
Blinding used	Double blind
Roles blinded	Investigator, Monitor, Subject

Arms

Are arms mutually exclusive?	Yes
Arm title	Paracetamol

Arm description:

Paracetamol 1 gram four times daily.

Arm type	Active comparator
Investigational medicinal product name	Paracetamol
Investigational medicinal product code	
Other name	
Pharmaceutical forms	Capsule, hard
Routes of administration	Oral use

Dosage and administration details:

Participants took paracetamol 1 gram (two capsules) four times daily (each dose at least 4 hours apart) for the 7 days of the intervention phase of the study. All capsules were consumed whole. Participants were issued with the medication on day 0 (day of randomisation) and asked to commence it the following day instead of their current usual paracetamol medication.

Arm title	Placebo
Arm description: -	
Arm type	Placebo
Investigational medicinal product name	Placebo
Investigational medicinal product code	
Other name	
Pharmaceutical forms	Capsule, hard
Routes of administration	Other use

Dosage and administration details:

Participants took placebo (two capsules) four times daily (each dose at least 4 hours apart) for the 7 days of the intervention phase of the study. All capsules were consumed whole. Participants were issued with the placebo on day 0 (day of randomisation) and asked to commence it the following day instead of their current usual paracetamol medication.

Number of subjects in period 1	Paracetamol	Placebo
Started	13	15
Completed	13	15

Baseline characteristics

End points

End points reporting groups

Reporting group title	Paracetamol
Reporting group description: Paracetamol 1 gram four times daily.	
Reporting group title	Placebo
Reporting group description: -	

Primary: Clinically relevant change in average pain score

End point title	Clinically relevant change in average pain score ^[1]
End point description:	

End point type	Primary
End point timeframe: Between baseline (day 0) and end of study (day 8).	

Notes:

[1] - No statistical analyses have been specified for this primary end point. It is expected there is at least one statistical analysis for each primary end point.

Justification: A full statistical analysis plan is available. The proportion of participants showing a clinically relevant change in average pain score over treatment period was compared using a binomial test for the comparison of proportions, the difference in proportions was presented along with an accompanying 95% CI.

End point values	Paracetamol	Placebo		
Subject group type	Reporting group	Reporting group		
Number of subjects analysed	11	12		
Units: Points between 0 and 10	3	1		

Statistical analyses

No statistical analyses for this end point

Adverse events

Adverse events information^[1]

Timeframe for reporting adverse events:

All AEs and SAEs were recorded from the time a participant signed their consent form to take part in the study until completion of the study (day 8) or withdrawal from the study.

Assessment type	Systematic
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Dictionary used

Dictionary name	MedDRA
Dictionary version	21

Frequency threshold for reporting non-serious adverse events: 0 %

Notes:

[1] - There are no non-serious adverse events recorded for these results. It is expected that there will be at least one non-serious adverse event reported.

Justification: Study closed early - only 23 patients completed.

More information

Substantial protocol amendments (globally)

Were there any global substantial amendments to the protocol? Yes

Date	Amendment
19 October 2017	Change to protocol to help increase recruitment: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reduce the minimum average pain score from 4 to 2.2. Reduce the time on the study drug from 2 weeks to 1 week.3. Use a poster/leaflet to alert potentially eligible patients to the study (eg in relevant clinic waiting rooms).4. Remove the inclusion criteria that participants should be under palliative care/oncology service review. This will enable recruitment via primary care, with support from the primary care network, who can send letters to potentially eligible patients at GP practices who volunteer to take part.5. Omit the screening period for the group already on paracetamol, where they are able to reliably report stable pain for the last 3 days (in the opinion of the researcher).6. Include a new post-trial assessment, to capture any changes in pain due to resumption of usual paracetamol or otherwise after the study.7. Allow issuing of Participant Information Sheet and taking consent to occur on the same day.8. Allow baseline assessments to be conducted by phone as well as in person.

Notes:

Interruptions (globally)

Were there any global interruptions to the trial? No

Limitations and caveats

None reported