

## Clinical trial for a Rare Cancer – CASPS Trial

Doctors ran a study called the CASPS trial to test a new medicine called cediranib. They wanted to see if it could help people with a very rare cancer called Alveolar Soft Part Sarcoma (ASPS) which particularly affects young people. Cancers needs new blood vessels to grow and spread in the body. Cediranib works by stopping new blood vessels from growing.

- The trial took place in hospitals in the UK, Australia, and Spain.
- Forty-eight patients suffering with this cancer joined the trial. 23 were men and 25 were women, in the age group of 20-29 years.
- In the first part of the trial, some patients took cediranib, while others took a placebo. Placebo is a fake tablet that looks the same but doesn't have any medicine.
- Patients had a 2 out of 3 chance of getting cediranib and a 1 out of 3 chance of getting the placebo.
- The groups were chosen randomly by a computer, like flipping a coin. This was fair. Neither the patients nor the doctors knew which treatment was being given during the first part of the trial.

After 24 weeks, in the second part of the trial, all the patients were allowed to take cediranib.

The study found that patients who took cediranib in the first 24 weeks had more tumour shrinkage than those who took the placebo. It also took longer before their tumours started growing again. Doctors also looked at how long patients lived with their cancer before it got worse. This was hard to measure because everyone eventually took cediranib.

The medicine did have side effects. Some people felt sick, had diarrhoea, high blood pressure, or felt very tired. Twelve people had serious side effects, and one person had a stroke caused by high blood pressure. This showed that blood pressure needs to be watched closely for anyone taking cediranib.

The CASPS trial showed that cediranib can help patients with ASPS. It could become an important treatment for this rare type of cancer in the future.