

# Quality of life effects of chickenpox on children and their families

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		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protocol
<b>Registration date</b> 25/03/2019	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 19/03/2024	<b>Condition category</b> Infections and Infestations	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

Chickenpox is one of the commonest illnesses in childhood. For most children with mild disease it is unpleasant but other than a few scars they will have no long term consequences, however a small proportion will develop very severe potentially life threatening side effects.

Very effective vaccines exist against chickenpox and have been safely used in the rest of the world for over twenty years. However in the NHS new vaccines can only be introduced if they can be shown to be good value for money. The government body that assesses this, the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) examined the use of chickenpox vaccines in 2010 but advised against vaccine introduction. One of the main areas of uncertainty identified was the degree to which the quality of life of children and their parents is affected

### Who can participate?

Children who have, have recently had, or have recently been exposed to chickenpox can take part in this study.

### What does the study involve?

This study will collect more accurate data on the age distribution and impact on quality of life for children hospitalised by chickenpox and their families. To do this we will identify children with chickenpox in hospitals and the community and ask them and their parents to fill out short diary cards made up of standard quality of life survey tools . There will be no interventions, tests or hospital visits as part of the study – just completion of simple diaries.

### What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

None

### Where is the study run from?

1. Bristol Children's Hospital, Bristol, UK
2. Hospital Pediátrico de Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal

### When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

March 2018 to January 2023

Who is funding the study?  
The National Institute for Health Research (UK)

Who is the main contact?  
Dr. Robin Marlow, robin.marlow@bristol.ac.uk

## Contact information

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Scientific

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## Additional identifiers

**Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)**  
Nil known

**ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT)**  
Nil known

## Protocol serial number

1.3

# Study information

## Scientific Title

Prospective cohort study of quality of life impact and healthcare usage in hospitalised and community cases of varicella zoster in children and their carers

## Acronym

QoLPox

## Study objectives

Whilst a ubiquitous disease of childhood with vaccines available to prevent it, chickenpox is not currently part of the UK or Portuguese childhood vaccine programme. Current evidence on the quality of life burden on children and their families is limited, we aim to follow a cohort of community and hospitalised cases of varicella to determine the QALY loss due to this disease.

## Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

## Ethics approval(s)

1. Hospital arm approved 09/04/2018, East of Scotland Research Ethics Service (Ninewells Hospital & Medical School, Tayside Medical Science Centre (TASC), Residency Block, Level 3, George Pirie Way, Dundee, DD1 9SY; 01382 383848; eosres.tayside@nhs.net), ref: 18/ES/0040.
2. Community arm approved 22/01/2018, University of Bristol Faculty of Health Services Ethics (University of Bristol, Beacon House, Queens Road, Bristol, BS8 1QU, UK; 0117 928 9000; liam.mckervey@bristol.ac.uk), ref: 60721

## Study design

International multi-centre cohort study

## Primary study design

Observational

## Study type(s)

Quality of life

## Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Chickenpox

## Interventions

Inpatient arm:

We will recruit patients with acute varicella or secondary complications requiring admission to hospital. After informed consent they (child and both carers) will be asked to complete daily quality of life diaries whilst an inpatient. After discharge they will complete weekly diaries for one month with final follow up diary at 6m.

Community arm:

We will recruit patients with acute varicella in the community. After informed consent they (child

and both carers) will be asked to complete daily diaries (alternate day quality of life) for 7-14 days until recovered to baseline.

### **Intervention Type**

Other

### **Primary outcome(s)**

Total QALY loss due to varicella in children and carers, for child assessed with CHU9 & EQ5D-5L and for parent with EQ5D-5L. For inpatient arm this is measured daily until discharge, once weekly for first month and then again at 6m. For community arm this is measured alternate days (although there is a diary every day)

### **Key secondary outcome(s)**

We will collect data on disease severity using a previously validated assessment of varicella symptoms tool (Vázquez et al 2001), demographics, healthcare use, illness within the family unit and missed work/education days. We will estimate the financial and societal costs for families through a daily diary inquiring about medication use, additional childcare costs and days of work missed.

### **Completion date**

31/01/2023

## **Eligibility**

### **Key inclusion criteria**

1. Male or Female, less than 18 years old.
2. Hospital arm: Currently have chickenpox or have had it during the last 21 days (12m for stroke).
3. Community arm: History of close exposure to active case of chickenpox or diagnosis of early disease
4. Informed consent obtained from the parent(s) / guardian with assent in children >6 years.

### **Participant type(s)**

All

### **Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

### **Age group**

Child

### **Upper age limit**

18 years

### **Sex**

All

### **Total final enrolment**

435

### **Key exclusion criteria**

1. Only those for whom admission is felt to be clinically unrelated to recent varicella (e.g. injuries / new malignant diagnosis) should be excluded from the study.

### **Date of first enrolment**

01/03/2018

### **Date of final enrolment**

01/12/2021

## **Locations**

### **Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

Portugal

### **Study participating centre**

#### **Bristol Children's Hospital**

Upper Maudlin Street.

Bristol

United Kingdom

BS2 8AE

### **Study participating centre**

#### **Hospital Pediátrico de Coimbra**

Aevnida, R. Dr. Afonso Romão,

Coimbra

Portugal

3000-602

## **Sponsor information**

### **Organisation**

University of Bristol

### **ROR**

<https://ror.org/0524sp257>

# Funder(s)

## Funder type

Government

## Funder Name

National Institute for Health Research

## Alternative Name(s)

National Institute for Health Research, NIHR Research, NIHRresearch, NIHR - National Institute for Health Research, NIHR (The National Institute for Health and Care Research), NIHR

## Funding Body Type

Government organisation

## Funding Body Subtype

National government

## Location

United Kingdom

# Results and Publications

## Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study during this study will be included in the subsequent results publication.

## IPD sharing plan summary

Other

## Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Protocol article</a>		29/03/2023	30/03/2023	Yes	No
<a href="#">Basic results</a>			19/03/2024	No	No
<a href="#">HRA research summary</a>			28/06/2023	No	No
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes
<a href="#">Protocol file</a>	Protocol for hospital arm only version 1.5	27/11/2019	20/11/2023	No	No