

A clinical trial testing a 1-week schedule of whole breast radiotherapy against a 3-week schedule

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| Submission date 18/05/2011 | Recruitment status No longer recruiting | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol |
| Registration date 31/05/2011 | Overall study status Ongoing | <input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results |
| Last Edited 27/11/2025 | Condition category Cancer | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data |

Plain English summary of protocol

<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-help/trials/a-trial-looking-giving-1-week-radiotherapy-breast-cancer-fast-forward>

Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)

Nil known

Integrated Research Application System (IRAS)

58575

ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT)

Nil known

Protocol serial number

HTA 09/01/47, ICR-CTSU/2010210026, NIHR150755

Study information

Scientific Title

Randomised clinical trial testing a 1-week course of curative whole breast radiotherapy against a standard 3-week schedule in terms of local cancer control and late adverse effects in patients with early breast cancer

Acronym

FAST-Forward

Study objectives

To identify a 5-fraction schedule of curative radiotherapy delivered in one week that is at least as effective and safe as the UK standard 15-fraction regimen after primary surgery for early breast cancer.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Approved 02/09/2011, NRES Committee South East Coast - Kent (now London - Brighton and Sussex REC, Ground Floor, Skipton House, 80 London Road, London, SE1 6LH, UK; +44 (0)207 104 8241; brightonandsussex.rec@hra.nhs.uk), REC ref: 11-LO-0958

Study design

Phase III randomized controlled multi-centre trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Breast cancer

Interventions

Patients will be randomised equally between a standard 3-week schedule and two 1 week test schedules of whole breast radiotherapy

Whole breast radiotherapy schedules:

Standard group - 40 Gy in 15 fractions over 15 days (not weekends)

Test group 1 - 27 Gy in 5 fractions over 5 days (not weekends)

Test group 2 - 26 Gy in 5 fractions over 5 days (not weekends)

Patients will be followed up for a minimum of 10 years.

There are Quality of Life and a photographic sub-studies, each with 2196 patients. Quality of Life questionnaires will be completed at baseline, 6, months and 2, 5 and 10 years post randomisation. Photographs will be taken at baseline and 2, 5 and 10 years post randomisation.

Added 27/11/2025:

Additional Data Linkage Information:

Participants from this trial will also be included in the INTERACT project which will link to their data held by NHS England. For more information, please see the INTERACT website:

<https://www.icr.ac.uk/interact>.

Intervention Type

Other

Primary outcome(s)

Ipsilateral local tumour control: Will be reported at the annual follow up visits. The tests will be performed when the need arises i.e. when the patient feels unwell or reports another lump etc. The tests will be carried out as routine clinical examinations i.e. X rays, computerised tomography (CT) scans, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), ultrasound.

Key secondary outcome(s)

1. Early and late adverse effects in normal tissues
2. Quality of life at baseline, 6, months and 2, 5 and 10 years post randomisation
3. Contralateral primary tumours, regional and distant metastases
4. Survival

Completion date

02/10/2028

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

1. Age more than or equal to 18 years
2. Female or male
3. Invasive carcinoma of the breast
4. Breast conservation surgery or mastectomy (reconstruction allowed but not with implant. Tissue expanders with distant metal ports are allowed)
5. Axillary staging and/or dissection
6. Complete microscopic excision of primary tumour
7. Stage pT1-3 pN0-1 M0 disease
8. Written informed consent
9. Able to comply with follow up

Concurrent trastuzumab and hormone therapy is allowed

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Mixed

Lower age limit

18 years

Upper age limit

100 years

Sex

All

Total final enrolment

4579

Key exclusion criteria

1. Past history of malignancy except basal cell skin cancer and cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) or non-breast malignancy allowed if treated with curative intent and at least 5 years disease free
2. Contralateral breast cancer, including ductal carcinoma in-situ (DCIS), irrespective of date of diagnosis
3. Breast reconstruction using implants
4. Concurrent cytotoxic chemotherapy (sequential neoadjuvant or adjuvant cytotoxic therapy allowed)
5. Radiotherapy to any regional lymph node areas (excepting lower axilla included in standard tangential fields to breast/chest wall)

Date of first enrolment

01/09/2011

Date of final enrolment

02/10/2018

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre

Academic Radiotherapy

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Sutton

England

SM2 5PT

Sponsor information

Organisation

Institute of Cancer Research

ROR

<https://ror.org/00dpztj76>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Government

Funder Name

Health Technology Assessment Programme

Alternative Name(s)

NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme, Health Technology Assessment (HTA), HTA

Funding Body Type

Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype

National government

Location

United Kingdom

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

Not provided at time of registration

IPD sharing plan summary

Available on request

Study outputs

| Output type | Details | Date created | Date added | Peer reviewed? | Patient-facing? |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Results article | results | 23/05/2020 | 26/06/2020 | Yes | No |
| Results article | | 01/11/2023 | 23/11/2023 | Yes | No |
| Results article | | 04/05/2025 | 19/05/2025 | Yes | No |
| Participant information sheet | Participant information sheet | 11/11/2025 | 11/11/2025 | No | Yes |

[Plain English results](#)

03/05/2022 No

Yes