

A phase II trial to investigate the safety of early high dose methylprednisolone in acute leprous neuritis and leprosy type 1 reactions with neuritis in Nepal

Submission date 04/12/2005	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered
Registration date 04/04/2006	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Last Edited 03/02/2016	Condition category Infections and Infestations	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Leprosy is caused by a bacterium and is curable with a combination of antibiotics known as multi-drug therapy that patients take for 6 or 12 months. However, many leprosy patients experience inflammation in their skin and/or nerves, which may occur even after successful completion of multi-drug therapy. These episodes of inflammation are called leprosy Type 1 reactions. Type 1 reactions are an important complication of leprosy because they may result in nerve damage that leads to disability and deformity. Type 1 reactions require treatment with immunosuppressive agents such as corticosteroids. The best dose and duration of corticosteroid treatment is currently unclear. The aim of this study is to see if it would be safe to use a large dose of a corticosteroid called methylprednisolone for three days at the start of 16 weeks of treatment with the corticosteroid prednisolone.

Who can participate?

Patients age 16-65 with leprosy Type 1 reactions and nerve damage present for less than six months.

What does the study involve?

Participants are randomly allocated to one of two groups. One group is treated with methylprednisolone intravenously (given into a vein) and placebo (dummy) tablets for the first three days of treatment. The other group is treated with a placebo intravenous infusion and prednisolone tablets for the first three days of treatment. Both groups are then treated with prednisolone tablets for 16 weeks.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Not provided at time of registration

Where is the study run from?

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
December 2005 to December 2007

Who is funding the study?
LEPRA (UK), American Leprosy Mission (USA), Hospital for Tropical Diseases London (UK)

Who is the main contact?
Dr Diana Lockwood
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Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

Contact name
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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
4022

Study information

Scientific Title
A phase II trial to investigate the safety of early high dose methylprednisolone in acute leprous neuritis and leprosy type 1 reactions with neuritis in Nepal

Acronym
MPSTUDY

Study objectives
Early high dose steroids will improve recovery of acute neuritis and prevent relapse

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

1. London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 28/11/2005, ref: 4022
2. Nepal Medical Research Council

Study design

Randomised double-blind trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Leprosy

Interventions

Study arm receives intravenous (IV) methylprednisolone in the first three days of type 1 reaction or acute neuritis treatment. The control arm receives a standard treatment of 40 mg prednisolone plus a normal saline (placebo) infusion. Those receiving IV methylprednisolone are given placebo tablets to ensure complete blinding. The following sixteen weeks of treatment are identical for both groups.

Intervention Type

Drug

Phase

Phase II

Drug/device/biological/vaccine name(s)

Methylprednisolone, prednisolone

Primary outcome(s)

Nerve function

Key secondary outcome(s))

Amount of additional steroid required

Completion date

31/12/2007

Eligibility**Key inclusion criteria**

1. Those with type 1 reaction with new nerve function impairment
2. Age 16-65 years

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

1. Type 1 reaction without new nerve function impairment
2. Systemic corticosteroids in the preceding three months
3. Contraindications to steroids
4. Pregnancy
5. Severe active infection
6. Severe intercurrent illness

Date of first enrolment

07/12/2005

Date of final enrolment

31/12/2007

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

Nepal

Study participating centre

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

London

United Kingdom

WC1E 7HT

Sponsor information**Organisation**

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK)

ROR

<https://ror.org/00a0jsq62>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Charity

Funder Name

LEPRA (UK)

Funder Name

American Leprosy Mission (USA)

Funder Name

Hospital for Tropical Diseases London (UK)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	12/04/2011		Yes	No
Results article	results	01/04/2012		Yes	No
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes