

Pre-treatment gastrostomy tube versus oral feeding plus as-needed nasogastric tube feeding in patients undergoing chemoradiation for head and neck cancer

Submission date 12/06/2014	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 12/06/2014	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 28/04/2020	Condition category Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/trials/A-trial-looking-two-different-ways-feeding-during-treatment-head-and-neck-cancer-tube>

Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number

16822

Study information

Scientific Title

A feasibility randomised controlled trial of pre-treatment gastrostomy tube versus oral feeding plus as-needed nasogastric tube feeding in patients undergoing chemoradiation for head and neck cancer

Acronym

TUBE

Study objectives

A multicentre randomised controlled feasibility trial comparing oral feeding plus pre-treatment gastrostomy versus oral plus as-required nasogastric tube feeding in patients with head and neck squamous cell cancer (HNSCC).

The principal aim is to determine whether a definitive RCT in head and neck cancer patients undergoing chemoradiation comparing oral feeding plus prophylactic gastrostomy tube feeding versus oral feeding plus as-needed nasogastric tube feeding is feasible. Second, we seek further clarity as to how a definitive trial should best be designed from the perspectives of patients, clinicians and NHS resources. The TUBE study feasibility trial is a necessary prelude to a full trial of these complex interventions, to assess whether an adequate proportion of eligible patients can be recruited and retained in the study as assessed, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

More details can be found at: <http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/projects/hta/123532>

Protocol can be found at: <https://njl-admin.nihr.ac.uk/document/download/2007246>

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

14/NE/0045; First MREC approval date 26/02/2014

Study design

Randomised; Interventional; Design type: Process of Care, Treatment

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Topic: Cancer, Ear, nose and throat, Gastroenterology; Subtopic: Head and Neck Cancer, Ear (all Subtopics), Gastroenterology; Disease: Head and Neck, Ear, nose & throat, All Gastroenterology

Interventions

Study participants will be randomised to one of two treatment arms in a 1:1 ratio:

1. Pre-CRT (chemo-radiation treatment) gastrostomy arm

G-tube insertion will take place before CRT commences, ideally in weeks two and three after

most patients are randomised. Where patients are receiving induction chemotherapy G-tube (gastrostomy tube) insertion may take place on either the week before cycle 2 of induction or the week pre CRT. G-tubes are inserted into the stomach through an abdominal incision, by either endoscopic or radiologic guidance, both being functionally equivalent. The choice of method of insertion will be left to the treating clinician/centre. Patients will continue with oral feeding throughout CRT unless or until they are unable to maintain an adequate oral intake to meet their nutritional requirements or are unable to swallow. At this stage the use of liquid nutrition through the G-tube will commence.

2. No pre-CRT gastrostomy arm

This group of patients will continue oral feeding throughout CRT, unless or until they are unable to maintain an adequate oral intake or inability to swallow, when a naso-gastric (NG) tube will be placed under local anaesthesia and liquid nutrition via an NGT will commence. The decision to place a nasogastric tube will be based on clinical assessment, patient request and published guidelines.

In both arms, patients will be given information about the treatment and the intervention involved. This will be delivered by the PI at the centre and reinforced by the research nurse.

Follow-up will occur weekly during CRT (for up to 8 weeks) and then a post CRT follow-up will be performed, as well as follow-up at 3, 6 and 12 months. These will all coincide with routine clinical appointments

Intervention Type

Procedure/Surgery

Primary outcome(s)

1. Assess willingness to randomise (by qualitative interviews with clinicians) and be randomised (by review of patient screening logs)
2. Assess retention and drop-out rates

Key secondary outcome(s)

1. Assess compliance and refine interventions and study processes
2. Estimate parameters to inform definitive trial design
3. Assess value of information based on modelling exercise
4. Assess incidence of reported adverse events

Completion date

14/06/2016

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

Patients with stage III and IV HNSCC who are suitable for primary CRT with curative intent. This can include patients having induction chemotherapy prior to CRT. All patients would have been investigated and diagnosed as above by the respective cancer MDT.

Main inclusion criteria are as follows:

1. Grade 1 pre-treatment dysphagia, as defined by Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events v4.0 (defined as: asymptomatic/symptomatic/able to eat regular diet)
2. Consent to be randomised
3. Adult patients

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

Patients who:

1. Decline to participate
2. Are unable to give informed consent
3. Cannot receive a gastrostomy for medical reasons
4. Do not receive treatment with curative intent
5. Have malnutrition requiring immediate initiation of enteral feeding

Date of first enrolment

10/07/2014

Date of final enrolment

30/06/2015

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

Study participating centre

Please contact the Trial Manager for more information on individual participating sites

United Kingdom

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Sponsor information**Organisation**

Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UK)

ROR

<https://ror.org/05p40t847>

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

All available data will be included as an appendix to the report to be published on 14/02/2018.

IPD sharing plan summary

Other

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	01/04/2018		Yes	No
Protocol article	protocol	16/06/2016		Yes	No
HRA research summary			28/06/2023	No	No
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes
Plain English results			28/04/2020	No	Yes
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes