Treating neovascular age-related macular degeneration with aflibercept

Submission date	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	Prospectively registered		
02/12/2015		Protocol		
Registration date 02/12/2015	Overall study status Completed	Statistical analysis plan		
		[X] Results		
Last Edited 02/03/2022	Condition category Eve Diseases	Individual participant data		

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the most common cause of vision loss in people over 50. It involves the gradual damage to a part of the eye called the macula. The macula is a tiny area at the centre of the retina (the layer at the back of the eye which is sensitive to light), which is responsible for central vision (seeing what is directly ahead). Over time, the damage to the macula can lead to central vision becoming distorted or blurry, eventually causing a blank patch in the centre of your vision. In most cases, AMD is caused by fatty-protein deposits called drusen collecting under the retina (dry AMD) over a long period of time; however, currently there is no cure or effective treatment for this type. About 10% of people suffering from AMD have what is known as wet AMD (or neovascular AMD). In wet AMD, the macula becomes damaged and new blood vessels start to grow behind the retina. These blood vessels are generally very weak and prone to leakage, causing the macula to swell and vision to deteriorate very quickly. Aflibercept is a drug treatment known as an anti-VEGF (anti-vascular endothelial growth factor). By injecting it directly into the eye, it works by preventing the weak, leaky blood vessels from growing (by blocking the action of the protein responsible). Currently, the recommended dose is 2mg once every eight weeks after the loading dose (initial large dose of a medicine used to ensure quick benefits), however more research is needed to find out if this is the most appropriate dose for everyone. The aim of this study is to compare the effects of standard treatment to a treat and extend regime, which uses the initial phases of a regimen to find the best dosing regimen for an individual patient.

Who can participate?

Adults over 50 suffering from bad eyesight due to wet AMD.

What does the study involve?

Participants are randomly allocated to one of two groups. Participants in both groups receive an initial three 2mg doses of aflibercept, given by intravitreal injection (an injection into the eye), spaced four weeks apart. Following this, for participants in the first group, the interval between treatments is extended to once every 8 weeks for the first year of treatment. In the second year of treatment, the treating physician can extend the intervals between treatments at their discretion. For participants in the second group, the treating physician is able to extend the treatment intervals at their discretion until the most appropriate dosing regimen for each

individual participant is found. At the end of the study, the potential benefits of each dosing method are compared, in order to find the best way to conduct a larger study in the future.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating? Not provided at time of registration

Where is the study run from? York Hospital (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for? December 2015 to March 2021

Who is funding the study? Bayer Health Centre (UK)

Who is the main contact? Tom Szczerbicki Mate.study@york.nhs.uk

Contact information

Type(s)

Public

Contact name

Mr Tom Szczerbicki

Contact details

Learning & Research Centre (LaRC)
York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Wigginton Road
York
United Kingdom
YO31 8HE
+44 (0)1904 721893
Mate.study@york.nhs.uk

Additional identifiers

Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)

2015-002302-36

ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT)

Nil known

Protocol serial number

19546

Study information

Scientific Title

Treating neovascular age-related Macular degeneration with Aflibercept: a pilot 24-month, multi--centre randomized controlled trial comparing standard care with an individualised Treat and Extend regimen

Acronym

MATE

Study objectives

The aim of this study is to compare standard care with an individualised treat and extend regimen of aflibercept in the treatment of neovascular age-related macular degeneration.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Yorkshire & The Humber - Leeds West Research Ethics Committee, 20/08/2015, ref: 15/YH/0286

Study design

Randomised; Interventional; Design type: Treatment

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Neovascular age-related macular degeneration

Interventions

Participants are randomly allocated to one of two groups. Both groups will receive intravitreal injections of aflibercept 2 mg.

Control group: Participants receive initial 3 doses of monthly aflibercept injections followed by 8 weekly treatments for the first year with an opportunity to extend the treatment intervals in the second year of treatment at the discretion of the treating physician.

Intervention group: Participants receive an initial 3 doses of monthly aflibercept followed by extension of treatment intervals at the discretion of the treatment physician until an interval appropriate for the individual is found. This has the potential to allow a minimum number of visits, on each of which treatment is administered, whilst maintaining an acceptable efficacy.

Intervention Type

Drug

Phase

Not Applicable

Drug/device/biological/vaccine name(s)

Aflibercept

Primary outcome(s)

To evaluate the feasibility aspects of the study under these headings i.e. process, resources, management and scientific content.

Key secondary outcome(s))

Not provided at time of registration.

Completion date

26/02/2021

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

- 1. Aged 50 years or above
- 2. Able to provide written, informed consent to the study
- 3. Able and willing to attend for hospital visits at the frequency required
- 4. Visual impairment predominantly due to neovascular age–related macular degeneration (AMD).
- 5. Active, treatment naive, angiographically active choroidal neovascular membrane in the study eye secondary to neovascular AMD with any part of the lesion or its sequelae (e.g. sub retinal fluid, intra retinal fluid, haemorrhage, pigment epithelial detachment, sub retinal pigment epithelium(RPE) fluid) in a sub foveal location
- 6. Visual acuity of 78-24 ETDRS letters at screening and baseline in the study eye.
- 7. If both eyes are eligible at baseline, the worst seeing eye will be included in the study although the final decision will rest with the investigator. Any deviation from entering the worst seeing eye into the study will be explained and documented in the patient notes and the CRF. The choice of eye selected for inclusion into the study will be determined and documented before the patient is randomised. A patient who has both eyes that may be eligible may therefore undergo a different treatment regimen in each eye, however they will be treated with aflibercept in both eyes. Hospital visits will be co-ordinated to minimise the number of attendances required and therefore the inconvenience for the patient.

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Sex

All

Total final enrolment

40

Key exclusion criteria

- 1. Inability to comply with the study or follow up procedures
- 2. Pregnant or lactating women
- 3. Women of child bearing potential unless they are using effective methods of contraception (total abstinence, female or male sterilization, barrier contraception, intrauterine device, oral or injectable hormonal methods of contraception)
- 4. Previous treatment for choroidal neovascularisation in the study eye
- 5. Fibrosis consisting of more than 50% of the lesion or involving the centre of the fovea
- 6. Coexisting pathology within 0.5 disc diameters of the fovea that could prevent an improvement in visual acuity in the opinion of the investigator (e.g. macular hole, dense epi -- retinal membrane)
- 7. Cataract (causing significant visual impairment), aphakia, vitreous haemorrhage, retinal detachment, proliferative retinopathy or CNV due to any cause other than AMD at screening and baseline
- 8. Known allergy to aflibercept or fluorescein
- 9. History of cerebrovascular accident, transient ischemic attack or myocardial infarction within 3 months of the screening visit
- 10. Any type of systemic disease or treatment that may affect or expect to affect the clinical status of the patient to a significant degree
- 11. Blood pressure of >160mmHg systolic or >100mmHg diastolic at screening or baseline
- 12. Any active periocular infection or inflammation at screening or baseline
- 13. Uncontrolled glaucoma (30mmHg) at screening or baseline
- 14. Neovascularisation of the iris at screening or baseline
- 15. Treatment with any anti angiogenic drugs to either eye within 3 months of baseline
- 16. Nd-YAG laser capsulotomy within the last 2 months or expected within 6 months of baseline in the affected eye
- 17. Use of other investigational drugs within 30 days
- 18. Use of systemic anti –vascular endothelial growth factor agents within 3 months prior to baseline
- 19. Use of systemic corticosteroids for at least 30 consecutive days within the 3 months prior to baseline
- 20. Current or planned medications known to be toxic to the lens, retina or optic nerve e.g. hydroxychloroquine, desferoxamine, tamoxifen or ethambutol

Date of first enrolment 01/12/2015

Date of final enrolment 28/02/2017

Locations

Countries of recruitmentUnited Kingdom

England

Study participating centre

York Hospital

Wigginton Road York United Kingdom YO31 8HE

Sponsor information

Organisation

York Hospital

ROR

https://ror.org/0003zy991

Funder(s)

Funder type

Industry

Funder Name

Bayer Health Centre

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The data sharing plans for the current study are unknown and will be made available at a later date.

IPD sharing plan summary

Data sharing statement to be made available at a later date

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Basic results		01/03/2022	02/03/2022	No	No
HRA research summary			28/06/2023	No	No
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes