A trial comparing gemcitabine alone with gemcitabine and capecitabine together after surgery to remove cancer of the pancreas

Submission date	Recruitment status	[X] Prospectively registered	
07/08/2007	No longer recruiting	☐ Protocol	
Registration date	Overall study status	Statistical analysis plan	
08/02/2008	Completed	[X] Results	
Last Edited	Condition category	Individual participant data	
31/03/2025	Cancer		

Plain English summary of protocol

https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/find-a-clinical-trial/a-trial-looking-at-chemotherapy-after-surgery-to-remove-cancer-of-the-pancreas-espac-4

Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

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Type(s)

Public

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Additional identifiers

EudraCT/CTIS number

2007-004299-38

IRAS number

ClinicalTrials.gov number

NCT00058201

Secondary identifying numbers

ESPAC-4

Study information

Scientific Title

European Study Group for Pancreatic Cancer (ESPAC) - Trial 4: combination versus single agent adjuvant chemotherapy in resectable pancreatic cancer

Acronym

ESPAC-4

Study objectives

To investigate if combination chemotherapy (gemcitabine and capecitabine), when used as adjuvant therapy in patients following resection for pancreatic adenocarcinoma, improves survival over adjuvant therapy using gemcitabine alone.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

- 1. Liverpool Adult Research Multi-centre Research Ethics Committee (MREC), 04/03/2008, ref: 08/H1005/1
- 2. MHRA acceptance also received on 20/02/2008, ref: 04196/0009/001

Study design

Phase III international randomised controlled trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Secondary study design

Randomised controlled trial

Study setting(s)

Hospital

Study type(s)

Treatment

Participant information sheet

Not available in web format, please use the contact details to request a patient information sheet

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Resectable pancreatic cancer

Interventions

Gemcitabine and capecitabine versus gemcitabine alone

Gemcitabine administration:

1,000 mg/m² gemcitabine must be given as an intravenous infusion, the lyophilised powder being diluted in normal saline, over 30 minutes unless haematological toxicity occurs requiring dose adjustment. Administer on day 1, 8 and 15 (one cycle) for six cycles i.e. 24 weeks.

Capecitabine administration:

830 mg/m² capecitabine must be administered orally morning and evening daily (total daily dose of 1,660 mg/m²) unless toxicity occurs requiring dose adjustment. The gemcitabine and capecitabine combination schedule used in this study originates from phase I data published by Schilsky et al. In this study the maximum tolerated dose was defined at gemcitabine 1 g/m² on days 1, 8 and 15, and capecitabine 1,660 mg/m²/day given on days 1 - 21 every 28 days.

Intervention Type

Drug

Phase

Phase III

Drug/device/biological/vaccine name(s)

Gemcitabine, capecitabine

Primary outcome measure

Current primary outcome measure as of 31/05/2011:

Length of survival. Duration of follow-up: 60 months from randomisation.

Previous primary outcome measure:

Length of survival. Duration of follow-up: 60 months from the date of surgery.

Secondary outcome measures

- 1. Toxicity. Duration of follow-up: 60 months from the date of surgery.
- 2. Quality of life, assessed by the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer, Quality of Life Questionnaires (EORTC C-30 QLQ) at baseline, 3, 6, 12, 16 and 24 months and annually thereafter up to 60 months

- 3. Two-year survival
- 4. Five-year survival
- 5. Relapse free survival (RFS). Duration of follow-up: 60 months from the date of surgery.

Overall study start date

13/10/2008

Completion date

31/10/2017

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

- 1. Patients who have undergone complete macroscopic resection for ductal adenocarcinoma of the pancreas (R0 or R1 resection)
- 2. Completion of all pre-operative investigations
- 3. Histological confirmation of the primary diagnosis
- 4. Histological examination of all resection margins
- 5. No evidence of malignant ascites, liver metastasis, spread to other distant abdominal organs, peritoneal metastasis, spread to extra-abdominal organs CT scan within 3 months prior to randomisation
- 6. A World Health Organization performance status less than 2
- 7. Fully recovered from the operation and fit to take part in the trial
- 8. Able to attend for administration of the adjuvant therapy
- 9. Able to attend for long-term follow-up
- 10. Life expectancy greater than 3 months
- 11. No previous or concurrent malignancy diagnoses (except curatively-treated basal cell carcinoma of skin, carcinoma in situ of cervix)
- 12. No serious medical or psychological condition precluding adjuvant treatment
- 13. Fully informed written consent given

Participant type(s)

Patient

Age group

Adult

Sex

Both

Target number of participants

722

Total final enrolment

730

Key exclusion criteria

- 1. Use of neo-adjuvant chemotherapy or other concomitant chemotherapy
- 2. Patients with pancreatic lymphoma
- 3. Macroscopically remaining tumour (R2 resection)

- 4. Patients with Tumor-Node-Metastasis (TNM) Stage IVb disease
- 5. Patients younger than 18 years
- 6. Pregnancy
- 7. New York Heart Association Classification Grade III or IV
- 8. Previous chemotherapy
- 9. All men or women of reproductive potential, unless using at least two contraceptive precautions, one of which must be a condom
- 10. Patients with known malabsorption

Date of first enrolment

13/10/2008

Date of final enrolment

31/10/2017

Locations

Countries of recruitment

France

Germany

Sweden

United Kingdom

Study participating centre 106 hospitals

United Kingdom

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Sponsor information

Organisation

University of Liverpool and the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospital NHS Trust (UK)

Sponsor details

c/o Mrs Lindsay Carter Research and Business Services The Foresight Centre 3 Brownlow Street Liverpool England United Kingdom L69 3GL

Sponsor type

University/education

Website

http://www.liv.ac.uk

ROR

https://ror.org/009sa0g06

Funder(s)

Funder type

Charity

Funder Name

Cancer Research UK (CRUK) (UK) - funding the central co-ordination of the trial (the Liverpool Cancer Trials Unit) (grant ref: C245/A8968)

Funder Name

National Cancer Research Network (NCRN) nurse support at UK sites. Non-UK sites will be required to secure their own funding for participating in the trial.

Results and Publications

Publication and dissemination plan

PDAC cohort: 2-year analysis expected late 2016/early 2017; 5-year analysis late 2019/early 2020 Periampullary cohort: 4-year analysis but unsure of the date – we have requested an extension to the recruitment period.

Intention to publish date

30/06/2017

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are/will be available upon request

IPD sharing plan summary

Available on request

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	11/03/2017		Yes	No

Plain English results
Results article

05/12/2024

26/10/2022 31/03/2025

No Yes Yes No