

A study to find out if orvepitant is safe to use and reduces the severity of cough in patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis

Submission date 25/02/2022	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 09/05/2022	Overall study status Completed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 23/09/2025	Condition category Respiratory	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

This clinical trial will be conducted in the USA, Europe and the UK, at approximately 30 sites, 10 of which are planned to be in the UK. This trial examines the efficacy and safety of the study medication, orvepitant (2 dose levels), compared to placebo, as a treatment for chronic cough in patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), a rare, progressive condition in which the lungs become scarred and breathing becomes increasingly difficult. Approximately 88 participants may be enrolled, but this may be increased to 108 depending on the variance in emerging data.

Who can participate?

Male and female subjects 40 years of age or above, with IPF.

What does the study involve?

The study will start with a screening period of up to 28 days to determine participants' eligibility after which eligible subjects will be randomised to one of two dose groups (Cohorts). All participants will receive both orvepitant and placebo in two different 4 week treatment periods in a cross-over design. Participants in Cohort 1 will receive 30 mg orvepitant and placebo (in a random order), and those in Cohort 2 will receive 10 mg orvepitant and placebo, again in a random order. All study medication will be a once daily tablet taken for 4 weeks. There will be a wash-out period of 3 weeks between the two treatment periods during which no study medication is taken. Neither the participants, nor the study doctor and their team will know what dose group the participant was allocated to, or the order in which treatment was taken (double-blind). Participants will complete a daily electronic diary throughout the study to record the severity of their cough and other symptoms, and will complete several questionnaires relating to their cough and general well-being at the clinic visits. They will also wear a cough frequency monitor for three 24 hour periods during the study. Routine safety assessments will be undertaken including ECGs, blood and urine sampling and lung function tests. There are 8 visits in total. Six of these are clinic visits and two are video or phone calls.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

The study visits will provide the benefit of more frequent health monitoring, and the cross-over

study design means that all subjects will receive active treatment for 4 weeks. Orvepitant is an investigational drug that has been given to around 900 study participants to date. Possible adverse reactions identified so far are mild to moderate somnolence, fatigue and dizziness. Participants are advised not to drive or operate machinery if they experience these reactions. Other, as yet unknown, adverse reactions are possible. Completion of a daily eDiary has the potential to be burdensome. However, the eDiary has been designed to be simple to use and completion should take no more than a few minutes each day. Ambulatory cough monitoring requires a small monitor to be worn for 24 hours which, while not uncomfortable, some patients find cumbersome. Collection of blood samples may be uncomfortable and worst case, may lead to bruising, pain and in very rare cases, infection. Only suitably trained professionals will conduct these procedures. 12-Lead ECGs will be performed which is painless, but the adhesive tabs of the electrodes attached to the skin may lead to itching or a rash in some participants. Lung function is assessed by spirometry. Patients with IPF are used to blowing into the spirometer but it may occasionally cause dizziness coughing or shortness of breath. The subject interviews are optional and subjects do not have to participate in them if they do not want to.

Where is the study run from?
NeRRe Therapeutics Ltd (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
February 2022 to June 2024

Who is funding the study?
NeRRe Therapeutics Ltd (UK)

Who is the main contact?
Dr Surinder Birring, surinder.birring@nhs.net

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

Contact name
Dr Stephen Pawsey

Contact details
NeRRe Therapeutics Ltd
SBC, Incubator Building
Gunnels Wood Rd.
Stevenage
United Kingdom
SG1 2FX
+44 1438 906 960
steve.pawsey@nerretherapeutics.com

Type(s)
Principal investigator

Contact name
Dr Surinder Birring

Contact details

Denmark Hill
London
United Kingdom
SE5 9RS
+44 203 299 4630
surinder.birring@nhs.net

Additional identifiers

ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT)

NCT05185089

Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)

2021-006278-22

Integrated Research Application System (IRAS)

1004546

Central Portfolio Management System (CPMS)

51434

Protocol serial number

ORV-PF-01

Study information

Scientific Title

A double-blind, randomised, placebo controlled, two period cross-over study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of orvepitant in chronic cough in patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis

Study objectives

1. To evaluate the effect of orvepitant once daily on cough severity, as perceived by patients, with IPF
2. To evaluate the safety of orvepitant once daily in patients with IPF
3. To evaluate the effect of orvepitant once daily on other measures of cough burden and on health-related quality of life in patients with IPF
4. To evaluate the effect of orvepitant on other comorbidities in patients with IPF

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Approved 22/04/2022, London - Surrey Borders Research Ethics Committee (Equinox House, City Link, Nottingham. NG2 4LA, UK; +44 (0)207 104 8057; surreyboundaries.rec@hra.nhs.uk), ref: 22/LO/0208

Study design

Interventional double-blind randomized parallel group placebo-controlled trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Chronic cough in patients with lung fibrosis of unknown cause

Interventions

All participants will start with a screening period of between 2 and 4 weeks, after which eligible participants will be randomised to one of two dose groups (cohorts) using an interactive web response system. All participants will receive both orvepitant and placebo in two different 4 week treatment periods in a cross-over design. Cohort 1 will evaluate a 30 mg orvepitant dose and Cohort 2 a 10 mg dose. Within each cohort, subjects will be randomised to receive either orvepitant or placebo in the first treatment period (Treatment Period A) followed by the alternate treatment in Treatment Period B. There will be a wash-out period of 3 weeks between the two treatment periods. Subjects will be randomised 1:1 to each of the two treatment orders and 1:1 to each cohort. Following the completion of Treatment Period B, there will be a 2-week follow-up period, making the total study duration for a participant between 15 and 17 weeks.

Intervention Type

Drug

Phase

Phase II

Drug/device/biological/vaccine name(s)

Orvepitant

Primary outcome(s)

Weekly average of the daily IPF Coughing Severity Scale score from Baseline (the last 7 days prior to randomisation) to Week 4 (the last 7 days of treatment)

Key secondary outcome(s)

1. IPF Coughing Severity Scale. Mean change from Baseline to Week 2 in weekly average of the daily IPF Coughing Severity Scale
2. Early morning cough scale. Mean change from Baseline to Weeks 2 and 4 in weekly average of the daily early morning cough scale
3. Rest of the day cough scale. Mean change from Baseline to Weeks 2 and 4 in weekly average of the daily rest of the day cough scale
4. Urge to cough scale. Mean change from Baseline to Weeks 2 and 4 in weekly average of the daily urge to cough scale
5. Cough frequency scale. Mean change from Baseline to Weeks 2 and 4 in weekly average of the daily cough frequency scale
6. Dyspnoea scale. Mean change from Baseline to Weeks 2 and 4 in weekly average of the daily dyspnoea scale
7. Patient global ratings of status for all coughing, early morning coughing and rest of the day coughing. Proportion of subjects in each category at Weeks 2 and 4
8. Patient global ratings of change for all coughing, early morning coughing and rest of the day

coughing. Proportion of subjects in each category at Weeks 2 and 4

9. Cough frequency measured using the Leicester Cough Monitor ambulatory cough monitor
 - 9.1. Mean change from Baseline to Week 4 in 24-hour cough frequency
 - 9.2. Mean change from Baseline to Week 4 in awake cough frequency
 - 9.3. Mean change from Baseline to Week 4 in night-time cough frequency
 - 9.4. Mean change from Baseline to Week 4 in the number of coughing bouts
10. Leicester Cough Questionnaire (LCQ). Mean change from Baseline to Week 4 in LCQ total and domain (Physical, Social, Psychological) scores
11. King's Brief Interstitial Lung Disease health status questionnaire (KBILD)
 - 11.1. Mean change from Baseline to Week 4 in K-BILD total and domain (Psychological, Breathlessness and Chest Symptoms) scores
 - 11.2. Proportion of patients with a clinically relevant improvement in total KBILD score
12. PROMIS SF SD 8b sleep assessment questionnaire. Mean change from Baseline to Week 4 in the PROMIS SF SD 8b score
13. Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) questionnaire. Mean change from Baseline to Week 4 in the HADS score
14. Hull Airway Reflux Questionnaire (HARQ). Mean change from Baseline to Week 4 in HARQ score

Completion date

30/06/2024

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

1. Male and female subjects ≥ 40 years of age
2. Able to understand and comply with the requirements of the study and give informed consent
3. Diagnosis of IPF established according to the 2018 joint ATS/ERS/JRS/ALAT Clinical Practice Guideline
4. FEV1/FVC ratio ≥ 0.65 at the screening visit
5. Haemoglobin-corrected diffusion capacity of carbon monoxide (Hbcorrected DLCO) $\geq 25\%$ within 12 months of the screening visit
6. Arterial oxygen saturation on room air or oxygen $\geq 90\%$ at Screening
7. Life expectancy of at least 12 months
8. Cough that is attributed to IPF, which has not responded to antitussive treatment, and which has been present for at least 8 weeks prior to screening
9. Mean daily IPF Coughing Severity Scale score ≥ 5.0 during the second week of the baseline assessment period (assessed at Visit 2)
10. If taking pirfenidone or nintedanib, the dose must have been stable dose for at least 3 months prior to Screening

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

40 years

Sex

All

Total final enrolment

80

Key exclusion criteria

1. Recent respiratory tract infection (<8 weeks prior to Screening)
2. Recent acute exacerbation of IPF (<8 weeks prior to Screening)
3. Current smokers or ex-smokers with <6 months' abstinence prior to Screening
4. Emphysema $\geq 50\%$ on high-resolution computed tomography, or the extent of emphysema is greater than the extent of fibrosis according to the reported results of the most recent scan
5. Mean early morning cough scale score ≥ 5.0 and rest of the day cough scale score < 5 during the second week of the baseline assessment period (assessed at Visit 2)
6. Cough that is predominantly productive in nature and attributable to lung pathology such as chronic bronchitis or bronchiectasis
7. Known clinically significant pulmonary hypertension
8. Inability to comply with the use of prohibited and allowed medications as described below:
 - 8.1. Strong or moderate inhibitors of CYP3A4 are not allowed from Screening until 1 week after the last dose of study medication
 - 8.2. Strong or moderate inducers of CYP3A4 are not allowed from Screening until 1 week after the last dose of study medication
 - 8.3. Strong or moderate P-glycoprotein inhibitors are not allowed from Screening until 1 week after the last dose of study medication
 - 8.4. Angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors are not allowed within 3 months of Screening and throughout Part 1
 - 8.5. e. Other treatments for cough management (including opioids, dextromethorphan, gabapentin, pregabalin, baclofen, antihistamines, thalidomide or tricyclic antidepressants (e.g. amitriptyline)) are not allowed from 4 weeks before the Baseline visit until Visit 8. Medications in these classes may be continued provided they have been prescribed solely for the management of another comorbidity and the dose has been stable for at least 4 weeks before the screening visit.
 - 8.6. The use of other NK1 antagonists (eg aprepitant, fosaprepitant, rolapitant) is not permitted for any reason from 4 weeks before the Baseline visit until completion of Visit 8
 - 8.7. Immune-suppressant drugs and systemic corticosteroids taken for comorbidities are permitted provided the dose has been stable for at least 2 weeks before the screening visit and they are expected to be used at this dose throughout Part 1. Any other use is prohibited
 - 8.8. Supplemental oxygen is permitted provided it has been used for at least 2 weeks before the screening visit and is expected to be used throughout

Date of first enrolment

25/03/2022

Date of final enrolment

30/09/2023

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Netherlands

United States of America

Study participating centre

Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)

96 Jonathan Lucas St.
Suite 816 CSB, MSC 630
South Carolina
Charleston
United States of America
29424

Study participating centre

Pulmonix, LLC

3511 Market Street
Suite 240
North Carolina
Greensboro
United States of America
27403

Study participating centre

University of Utah

419 Wakara Way
Suite 207
Utah
Salt Lake
United States of America
84108

Study participating centre

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

719 Thompson Lane
Suite 20300
Tennessee
Nashville
United States of America
37204

Study participating centre

Mayo Clinic

200 First Street SW

Minnesota

Rochester

United States of America

55905

Study participating centre

Loyola University Chicago

2160 S First Avenue

Fahey Building 112

Illinois

Maywood

United States of America

60153

Study participating centre

University of Michigan

1500 E. Medical Center Drive

SPC 5316

Michigan

Ann Arbor

United States of America

48109

Study participating centre

University of California, Los Angeles

200 Medical Plaza

Suite 530

California

Los Angeles

United States of America

90095

Study participating centre

UVA Health System

1215 Lee Street

Virginia

Charlottesville
United States of America
22908

Study participating centre
National Jewish Health
1400 Jackson St
Colorado
Denver
United States of America
80206

Study participating centre
Guys and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
249 Westminster Bridge Road
London
United Kingdom
SE1 7EH

Study participating centre
Castle Hill Hospital
Castle Road
Cottingham
United Kingdom
HU16 5JX

Study participating centre
MAC Clinical Research Liverpool
11 Tiger Court
King's Business Park
Liverpool
United Kingdom
L34 1BH

Study participating centre
MAC Clinical Research Barnsley
Phoenix House
Maple Road
Barnsley
United Kingdom
S75 3DL

Study participating centre
MAC Clinical Research Leeds
Monarch House
Wakefield Rd
Leeds
United Kingdom
LS10 1DU

Study participating centre
MAC Clinical Research Ltd
Suite 101 & 102 Empire Business Park
Liverpool Road
Burnley
United Kingdom
BB12 6HH

Study participating centre
Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital
Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital
Barrack Road
Exeter
United Kingdom
EX2 5DW

Study participating centre
Churchill Hospital
Churchill Hospital
Old Road
Headington
Oxford
United Kingdom
OX3 7LE

Study participating centre
Southampton General Hospital
Tremona Road
Southampton
United Kingdom
SO16 6YD

Study participating centre**Sint Antonius Hospital**

Pulmonology

Koekoekslaan 1

Nieuwegein

Netherlands

3435 CM

Study participating centre**Erasmus Medical Center**

Dr. Molewaterplein 40

Rotterdam

Netherlands

3015 GD

Study participating centre**Isala Klinieken**

Building B - Dokter Spanjaardweg 29

Zwolle

Netherlands

8025 BT

Study participating centre**Zuyderland Medical Center - Department of Intensive Care**

H. Dunantstraat 5

Heerlen

Netherlands

6419 PC

Sponsor information**Organisation**

NeRRre Therapeutics Ltd

Funder(s)**Funder type**

Industry

Funder Name

NeRRre Therapeutics Ltd

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated during the current study will be available upon request from info@nerretherapeutics.com to academic researchers who have a bona fide reason to request them. Only aggregated data will be provided as participants did not give consent for subject level data to be provided to parties other than NeRRre. Requests for data should include a summary of the research project including its objectives, the funding source, the role of the study data in achieving these objectives, the proposed analysis methods and publication plans.

IPD sharing plan summary

Available on request

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article			23/09/2025	Yes	No
HRA research summary			28/06/2023	No	No
Participant information sheet	version 2.0	04/04/2022	28/12/2022	No	Yes
Protocol file	version 4.0	16/05/2024	23/09/2025	No	No
Statistical Analysis Plan	version 1.0	14/03/2024	23/09/2025	No	No
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes