

The locally recurrent rectal cancer quality of life study

Submission date 18/12/2021	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 20/12/2021	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 28/04/2026	Condition category Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Locally recurrent rectal cancer is cancer that returns close to the origin site following surgery. The extent of the burden that locally recurrent rectal cancer has on quality of life is poorly reported. Patients with advanced cancer value both survival and quality of life. Using only traditional clinical endpoints in advanced cancer settings is no longer valid and should be reported alongside patient-reported outcomes such as quality of life, in an attempt to present a more balanced outlook on treatments and management strategies.

There are many questionnaires that currently exist that are used to assess quality of life, however, these tools have not been validated specifically for patients with locally recurrent rectal cancer. Validation means checking that the questionnaire is applicable across relevant patient groups. The LRRC-QoL is a questionnaire that has been designed specifically to assess quality of life in patients with locally recurrent rectal cancer. The LRRC-QoL has been developed and validated in patients from the UK and Australia.

The aims of the study are:

- to translate and validate the LRRC-QoL into 13 different languages to aid international research in determining the quality of life outcomes in locally recurrent rectal cancer,
- to understand the impact of locally recurrent rectal cancer and its treatment on quality of life,
- to identify survivorship issues relevant to patients who have undergone treatment for locally recurrent rectal cancer and are disease-free,
- to compare the quality of life outcomes between different groups of patients with locally recurrent rectal cancer.

Who can participate?

This study involves participants with locally recurrent rectal cancer.

What does the study involve?

There are three different parts of the study. The first part of the study aims to develop an international questionnaire that can be used to assess the quality of life in patients with locally recurrent rectal cancer. This will involve a translation process followed by interviews with patients to ensure that the questionnaire is acceptable and understandable to them.

The second part of the study aims to measure quality of life in patients with locally recurrent rectal cancer. Quality of life will be assessed using the LRRC-QoL questionnaire at the start of the study, then at 3, 6, and 12 months. Participants will also be asked to complete three additional quality of life questionnaires at the start of the study which will be used in the analysis to ensure that the LRRC-QoL questionnaire is a valid measure of quality of life.

The third part of the study aims to identify the issues which are relevant to and impact upon the quality of life of survivors of locally recurrent rectal cancer. Taking part in this part of the study will involve a one-off interview with a researcher to identify the issues which are relevant to this group of patients.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

The study will deliver wider benefits as it will provide information regarding quality of life in patients with locally recurrent rectal cancer in many centres internationally. This information can be used to inform shared decision-making between patients and their medical team regarding their care. The study will also allow the LRRC-QoL to be used in future international research. There are no personal benefits to taking part in the study. The study will not affect or alter the treatment participants receive. Participants may find that completing the questionnaires causes them to experience emotional distress in reflecting upon their experience of locally recurrent rectal cancer.

Where is the study run from?

The study is run from the Clinical Trials Research Unit (CTRU) at the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom.

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

October 2020 to December 2024

Who is funding the study?

The study is funded by Bowel Research UK and Pelican Cancer Foundation (UK)

Who is the main contact?

Dr Niamh McKigney, N.McKigney@leeds.ac.uk

Contact information

Type(s)

Public, Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Integrated Research Application System (IRAS)

272685

Central Portfolio Management System (CPMS)

46607

Study information

Scientific Title

Health-related Quality of Life and survivorship in Locally Recurrent Rectal Cancer. The LRRC-QoL study

Acronym

LRRC-QoL

Study objectives

The clinical and oncological outcomes associated with locally recurrent rectal cancer and its various treatment modalities are well documented, however, there is a lack of high-quality, robust data on patient-reported outcomes of health-related quality of life using validated measures in this cohort of patients. Using traditional clinical endpoints alone in advanced cancer settings is no longer valid and such outcomes should be reported alongside patient-reported outcomes in an attempt to present a more balanced outlook on treatments and management strategies. This becomes more pertinent in this disease group as the treatment boundaries are continually pushed to enable ultra-radical resection to afford cure in a greater proportion of patients.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Approved 08/10/2020, West of Scotland Research Ethics Committee 3 (Research Ethics, Clinical Research and Development, Ward 11, Dykebar Hospital, Grahamston Road, Paisley, PA2 7DE, UK; +44(0)1413140212; WoSREC3@ggc.scot.nhs.uk), ref: 20/WS/0116

Study design

International multi-centre longitudinal prospective cohort study

Primary study design

Observational

Study type(s)

Quality of life

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Health-related quality of life and survivorship in locally recurrent rectal cancer

Interventions

The study has been designed as an international, multi-centre, mixed methods study. The study consists of 3 workstreams.

The first workstream will adapt the LRRC-QoL into a number of languages and for use in English-speaking countries outside of the UK and validate the measure in each participating country. This will involve a translation process followed by interviews with patients to ensure that the questionnaire is acceptable and understandable to them.

Workstream II is designed as a longitudinal, prospective observational cohort study and will consist of two parts. The first part will establish the reliability and validity of the LRRC-QoL in a large sample size within an international setting. The second part of the study will measure longitudinal outcomes in patients with locally recurrent rectal cancer over a 12-month period. Quality of life will be assessed using the LRRC-QoL questionnaire at the start of the study, then at 3, 6, and 12 months. Participants will also be asked to complete three additional quality of life questionnaires at the start of the study which will be used in the analysis to ensure that the LRRC-QoL questionnaire is a valid measure of quality of life.

Workstream III will identify survivorship issues in patients with locally recurrent rectal cancer. This part of the study will involve a one-off interview with a researcher to identify the issues which are relevant to this group of patients.

Intervention Type

Other

Primary outcome(s)

Health-related quality of life assessed using the LRRC-QoL questionnaire at baseline, 10 - 14 days, 3, 6 and 12 months.

Key secondary outcome(s)

The survivorship issues relevant to patients who have undergone treatment for locally recurrent rectal cancer, these will be established through using qualitative interviews at a single time point.

Completion date

02/12/2024

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

Workstream I:

- 1.1 Aged over or equal to 18 years
- 1.2 Radiological and/or histological diagnosis of locally recurrent rectal cancer
- 1.3 Undergone treatment for locally recurrent rectal cancer within the last 2 years
- 1.4 Able to provide informed written consent to participate
- 1.5 Able to read and write in the target language.

Workstream II:

- 2.1 Aged over or equal to 18 years
- 2.2 New radiological and/or histological diagnosis of locally recurrent rectal cancer
- 2.3 Able to provide informed written consent to participate
- 2.4 Able to read and write in the target language.

Workstream III:

- 3.1 Aged over or equal to 18 years
- 3.2 Treated for locally recurrent rectal cancer and are disease-free for more than 3 years
- 3.3 Able to provide informed written consent to participate
- 3.4 Able to read and write in the target language

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Mixed

Lower age limit

18 years

Upper age limit

120 years

Sex

All

Total final enrolment

321

Key exclusion criteria

1. Patients with cognitive impairment
2. Patients who are in remission from treatment of primary rectal cancer with no evidence of local recurrence
3. Patients who are receiving treatment for distant metastatic disease following previous treatment of rectal cancer with no evidence of local recurrence

Date of first enrolment

05/11/2020

Date of final enrolment

04/12/2023

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Scotland

Wales

Australia

Brazil

Canada

Denmark

France

India

Ireland

Italy

Netherlands

New Zealand

Pakistan

Russian Federation

Singapore

Spain

Sweden

United States of America

Study participating centre

Manchester Royal Royal Infirmary

Cobbett House

Oxford Road

Manchester

England

M13 9WL

Study participating centre

St Marks Hospital

St Marks Hospital

Watford Road

Harrow

England

HA1 3UJ

Study participating centre

St James's University Hospital

St. James's University Hospital

Beckett Street

Leeds

England

LS9 7TF

Study participating centre

Morrison Hospital

Heol Maes Eglwys

Cwmrhydyceirw

Swansea

Wales

SA6 6NL

Study participating centre

Addenbrookes

Addenbrookes Hospital

Hills Road

Cambridge

England
CB2 0QQ

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

Study participating centre
Glasgow Royal Infirmary
84 Castle Street
Glasgow
Scotland
G4 0SF

Study participating centre
Leicester Royal Infirmary
Leicester Royal Infirmary
Infirmary Square
Leicester
England
LE1 5WW

Study participating centre
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust - Queen's Medical Centre Campus
Nottingham University Hospital
Derby Road
Nottingham
England
NG7 2UH

Study participating centre
Heartlands Hospital
Bordesley Green East
Bordesley Green
Birmingham
England
B9 5ST

Study participating centre

The Christie

550 Wilmslow Road
Withington
Manchester
England
M20 4BX

Study participating centre

Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust

The John Radcliffe
Headley Way
Headington
Oxford
England
OX3 9DU

Study participating centre

Southampton

Southampton General Hospital
Tremona Road
Southampton
England
SO16 6YD

Study participating centre

St. Vincent's University Hospital

St. Vincent's University Hospital
Elm Park
Merrion Road
Dublin
Ireland
Dublin 4

Study participating centre

Aarhus University Hospital

Aarhus University Hospital
Nørrebrogade 44

Aarhus
Denmark
8000 Aarhus C

Study participating centre
Centre Hospitalier Universitaire (CHU) de Bordeaux
CHU de Bordeaux
Place Amélie Raba Léon
Bordeaux
France
33000 Bordeaux

Study participating centre
Vall d'Hebron University Hospital
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Passeig de la Vall d'Hebron 119-129
Barcelona
Spain
08035 Barcelona

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Eindhoven
Netherlands
PO Box 1350 5602ZA

Study participating centre
Erasmus MC Cancer Institute
Erasmus MC Cancer Institute
Doctor Molewaterplein 40
PO Box 2040 3000 CA
Rotterdam
Netherlands
PO Box 2040 3000 CA

Study participating centre
Sahlgrenska University Hospital
Sahlgrenska University Hospital
Blå stråket 5

413 45 Göteborg
Göteborg
Sweden
413 45 Göteborg

Study participating centre

Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland Clinic
9500 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland
United States of America
OH 44195

Study participating centre

MD Anderson Cancer Center
MD Anderson Cancer Center
1515 Holcombe Boulevard
Houston
United States of America
Texas 77030

Study participating centre

UC Davis Health
UC Davis Health
2335 Stockton Boulevard
Sacramento
United States of America
CA 95817

Study participating centre

UNC Health Care
UNC Health Care
101 Manning Drive
Chapel Hill
United States of America
NC 27514

Study participating centre

Christchurch Hospital
Christchurch Hospital
2 Riccarton Avenue

Christchurch Central
Christchurch
New Zealand
Christchurch 8011

Study participating centre
Sengkang General Hospital
Sengkang General Hospital
110 Sengkang East Way
Sengkang
Singapore
Singapore 544886

Study participating centre
Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences
Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences
SKIMs Main Road
Soura
Srinagar
Jammu and Kashmir
Srinagar
India
190011

Study participating centre
Tata Memorial Hospital
Tata Memorial Hospital
Dr Ernest Borges Road
Parel East
Parel
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400012

Study participating centre
Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital and Research Institute
Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital and Research Institute
Road No. 10
Banjara Hills
Hyderabad
Telangana

Hyderabad
India
500034

Study participating centre
Saint Petersburg State University Hospital
University Embankment 7/9
St Petersburg
Saint Petersburg
Russian Federation
199034

Study participating centre
Moscow State University Hospital
Ulitsa Kolmogorova 1
Moscow
Moscow
Russian Federation
119991

Study participating centre
National Cancer Institute of Milan
National Cancer Institute of Milan
Via Venezian 1
Milano
Milan
Italy
20133

Study participating centre
Patel Hospital
Patel Hospital
Street 18
Block 4 Gulshan-e-Iqbal
Karachi
Sindh
Karachi
Pakistan
Sindh 75300

Study participating centre

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Study participating centre
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Sponsor information

Organisation
University of Leeds

ROR
<https://ror.org/024mrx33>

Funder(s)

Funder type
Charity

Funder Name
Bowel Research UK

Alternative Name(s)
Bowel Research United Kingdom, BRUK

Funding Body Type
Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype
Trusts, charities, foundations (both public and private)

Location
United Kingdom

Funder Name

Pelican Cancer Foundation

Alternative Name(s)

Pelicanfon

Funding Body Type

Private sector organisation

Funding Body Subtype

Trusts, charities, foundations (both public and private)

Location

United Kingdom

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are/will be available upon request from Niamh McKigney (N.McKigney@leeds.ac.uk) the potential sharing of anonymised quality of life data for future health research purposes was included in the informed consent process.

IPD sharing plan summary

Available on request

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article		22/08/2025	27/01/2026	Yes	No
Results article	Qualitative results	20/03/2025	27/01/2026	Yes	No
HRA research summary			28/06/2023	No	No
Other publications	Challenges and strategies to improve recruitment	25/04/2026	28/04/2026	Yes	No
Participant information sheet		11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes
Study website		11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes