

Paediatric hepatic international tumour trial

Submission date 19/04/2017	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	☒ Prospectively registered ☐ Protocol
Registration date 24/04/2017	Overall study status Ongoing	☐ Statistical analysis plan ☐ Results
Last Edited 27/05/2026	Condition category Cancer	☐ Individual participant data ☒ Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/find-a-clinical-trial/a-trial-looking-at-improving-treatment-and-outcome-for-children-with-liver-cancer-phitt>

Contact information

Type(s)

Public

Contact name

Mr Steve Baker

Contact details

PHITT Study Office
Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit
Institute of Cancer and Genomic Sciences
The University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham
United Kingdom
B15 2TT
+44 121 415 1061
phitt@trials.bham.ac.uk

Additional identifiers

ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT)

NCT03017326

Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)

2016-002828-85

Integrated Research Application System (IRAS)

212527

Study information

Scientific Title

Paediatric Hepatic International Tumour Trial (PHITT)

Acronym

PHITT

Study objectives

This study aims to:

1. Reduce treatment for very low and low risk group patients, while maintaining the excellent event-free survival (EFS) in these groups to reduce side effects of treatment.
2. Intensify therapy in the high risk group to improve the surgery options available and the event free survival, while testing the use of new drugs in a clinical trial setting.
3. Compare different regimens to improve surgical options in intermediate risk HB
4. Evaluate the biology and genetics of HB and HCC to identify prognostic and toxicity biomarkers.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

West Midlands REC – Edgbaston, 10/04/2017, ref: 17/WM/0110

Primary study design

Interventional

Study design

Randomised; Both; Design type: Treatment, Drug, Cross-sectional

Study type(s)

Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Hepatoblastoma or hepatocellular carcinoma

Interventions

The patient will be approached with the option of joining the trial early in the diagnosis. The patient will be asked to confirm their consent to participate in the trial and for a sample of their tumour to be sent for research purposes. An assessment will be made to categorise the level of disease (called PRETEXT staging) using the age, AFP level, presence of metastases and tumour location. The level of disease will be categorised according to analysis by Children's Hepatic tumour International Collaboration (CHIC) - Hepatoblastoma Stratification. If appropriate, the patient will be asked to consent to receive treatment.

The patient will be allocated to one of six different treatment groups, depending on their disease:

Group A: Very Low Risk Hepatoblastoma (HB)

The results from the Central Pathology review of the patient's tumour tissue will be used to determine if the patient should receive cisplatin treatment or no treatment. If the tumour shows "WDF" histology, the patient receives no treatment and is seen at routine visits for follow up assessment only. If the tumour shows "non-WDF" histology, the patient receives a dose of cisplatin on Day 1 of two 21 day cycles.

Group B: Low Risk Hepatoblastoma

These patients will receive a dose of Cisplatin on Day 1 of two 14 day cycles.

The patient is then assessed for surgery to remove the tumour by the Consultant working on the study. If surgery is carried out, the patient is randomised to one of the following two arms:

1. Patient receives cycle 3 and cycle 4 of Cisplatin treatment or
2. Patient receives cycles 4-6 of Cisplatin treatment.

If surgery is not feasible after cycle 1 and cycle 2, the patient receives cycles 3 and 4 of Cisplatin treatment and is re-assessed for surgery. If surgery is still not feasible, the patient receives cycles 5 and 6 of Cisplatin treatment.

Group C: Intermediate Risk Hepatoblastoma

These patients will be randomised to receive one of the following three treatments.

1. SIOPEL3HR: A cardiology assessment to check the patient's heart function will be done prior to receiving treatment. Patients will receive Cisplatin on Day 1, Carboplatin on Day 15 and Doxorubicin on Days 15 & 16 in five 28 day cycles.
2. C5VD: A cardiology assessment will be done prior to receiving treatment. Patients will receive Cisplatin and Doxorubicin on Days 1 & 2; Doxorubicin, 5-Fluorouracil and Vincristine on Day 2; and Vincristine on Days 9 & 16. Each cycle of treatment is repeated after 21 days, and six cycles in total are given.
3. CDDP monotherapy: Patients will receive Cisplatin on Day 1 in six 14 day cycles. Patients will have a CT/MRI scan after the 2nd and 4th cycles of treatment to assess their disease, and have their tumour removed by surgery at an appropriate point in the treatment, depending on the scan results and the decision by their doctor. Following surgery, patients will have further cycles of treatment, until all cycles have been given.

Group D: High Risk Hepatoblastoma

These patients will first undergo induction therapy before undergoing surgery and further treatment.

During induction treatment, patients will receive Cisplatin on Day 1, Cisplatin and Doxorubicin on Day 8, Doxorubicin on Day 9 and Cisplatin again on Day 15 in three 15 day cycles.

If disease metastases are present after receiving the induction treatment, the patient will be randomised to receive one of the two following treatments:

1. CD/CE: Patients will receive Carboplatin and Doxorubicin (CD) on Day 1, followed by another dose of Doxorubicin on Day 2. Each cycle is 21 days. The patient will receive Carboplatin and Etoposide (CE) on Days 1-4 of Cycle 2. Cycle 1 (CD) and Cycle 2 (CE) will alternate until a total of 6 cycles are given.
2. CD/VI: Patients will receive Carboplatin and Doxorubicin (CD) on Day 1, followed by another dose of Doxorubicin on Day 2. Each cycle is 21 days. The patient will receive Vincristine and Irinotecan (VI) on Day 1 of Cycle 2, followed by more doses of Irinotecan on Days 2-5 of Cycle 2. Cycle 1 (CD) and Cycle 2 (VI) will alternate until a total of 6 cycles are given.

If disease metastases are not present following the induction treatment and surgery, the patient receives Carboplatin and Doxorubicin (CD) as described above.

Group E: Resectable Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC)

The type of HCC tumour removed during surgery will determine if the patient should receive PLADO (Cisplatin & Doxorubicin) treatment or no treatment. If the tumour is deemed Fibrolamellar, the patient receives no treatment and is seen at routine visits for follow up assessment only. If the tumour is deemed de novo HCC, the patient should receive a dose of Cisplatin and Doxorubicin on Day 1, and Doxorubicin on Day 2 of four 21 day cycles.

Group F: Unresectable/metastatic Hepatocellular Carcinoma

These patients will be randomised to receive one of the following two treatments:

1. PLADO + Sorafenib: Patients will receive Cisplatin and Doxorubicin on Day 1, Doxorubicin on Day 2 (PLADO) and Sorafenib on Days 3-21 of three 21 day cycles.
2. PLADO + Sorafenib/GEMOX + Sorafenib: Patients will receive Cisplatin and Doxorubicin on Day 1, Doxorubicin on Day 2 (PLADO) and Sorafenib on Days 3-14. Each cycle is 14 days. The patient will receive Gemcitabine, Oxaliplatin and Sorafenib on Day 1, and Sorafenib on Days 2-14 of Cycle 2. Cycle 1 (PLADO+Sorafenib) and Cycle 2 (PLADO+Sorafenib/GEMOX) will alternate until a total of 4 cycles are given.

At the end of the treatment patients will be seen at routine visits once every 3 months for the next 2 years for follow up assessment, including a physical examination, a CT/MRI scan and a blood test for disease indicator Alphafetoprotein levels.

Intervention Type

Other

Primary outcome(s)

1. Event-free survival (EFS) is measured as the time from randomisation (or registration into the trial for non-randomised patients) to first failure event or last follow-up date
2. Response in HCC is measured using RECIST version 1.1 criteria, after 3 cycles of PLADO, or 4 cycles of PLADO+S/GEMOX+S in Group F
3. Best Response is measured using RECIST version 1.1 criteria and AFP decline at end of treatment for Groups A, B, C, D and E

Key secondary outcome(s)

1. Overall survival (OS) is measured as the time from randomisation (or registration for non-randomised patients) to death from any cause
2. Toxicity is measured using Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (CTCAE), at the end of each cycle of treatment
3. Hearing loss is measured using SIOPEL Boston Scale for oto-toxicity at end of treatment and follow up
4. Surgical resectability is measured using surgical outcome during treatment after surgery
5. Adherence to surgical guidelines is measured using the current SIOPEL surgical guidelines and the local clinician's surgical decision to resect after surgical assessment

Completion date

31/12/2026

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

1. Clinical diagnosis of HB and histologically defined diagnosis of HB or HCC
2. Aged 0-30 years
3. Written informed consent for trial entry

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Mixed

Lower age limit

0 Years

Upper age limit

30 Years

Sex

All

Total final enrolment

449

Key exclusion criteria

1. Any previous chemotherapy or currently receiving anti-cancer agents
2. Recurrent disease
3. Previously received a solid organ transplant
4. Uncontrolled infection
5. Unable to follow the protocol for any reason
6. Second malignancy
7. Pregnant or breastfeeding women

Date of first enrolment

25/08/2017

Date of final enrolment

31/12/2023

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

Northern Ireland

Scotland

Wales

Austria

Belgium

Czech Republic

Finland

France

Germany

Ireland

Israel

Netherlands

Norway

Spain

Switzerland

Study participating centre

Aberdeen Royal Infirmary

Foresterhill

Aberdeen

Scotland

AB25 2ZN

Study participating centre

Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children

180 Falls Road

Belfast

Northern Ireland

BT12 6BE

Study participating centre

Birmingham Children's Hospital

Steelhouse Lane

Birmingham

England
B4 6NH

Study participating centre
Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Urbis Education Centre
Bristol
England
BS2 8AE

Study participating centre
Addenbrooke's Hospital
Hills Road
Cambridge
England
CB2 0QQ

Study participating centre
Royal Hospital for Sick Children Edinburgh
9 Sciennes Road
Edinburgh
Scotland
EH9 1LF

Study participating centre
Royal Hospital for Children
1345 Govan Road
Glasgow
Scotland
G51 4TF

Study participating centre
Leeds General Infirmary
Great George Street
Leeds
England
LS1 3EX

Study participating centre

Leicester Royal Infirmary

Infirmery Square
Leicester
England
LE1 5WW

Study participating centre

Alder Hey Children's Hospital

Eaton Road
Liverpool
England
L12 2AP

Study participating centre

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children

Great Ormond Street
London
England
WC1N 3JH

Study participating centre

Royal Manchester Childrens Hospital

Oxford Road
Manchester
England
M13 9WL

Study participating centre

Royal Victoria Infirmary

Queen Victoria Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
England
NE1 4LP

Study participating centre

Nottingham City Hospital

City Hospital Campus
Nottingham
England
NG5 1PB

Study participating centre
John Radcliffe Hospital
Headley Way
Oxford
England
OX3 9DU

Study participating centre
Sheffield Children's Hospital
Western Bank
Sheffield
England
S10 2TH

Study participating centre
Southampton General Hospital
Tremona Road
Southampton
England
SO16 6YD

Study participating centre
Royal Marsden Hospital Sutton
Downs Road
Sutton
England
SM2 5PT

Study participating centre
Our Lady's Children's Hospital
Crumlin
Dublin
Ireland
Dublin 12

Sponsor information

Organisation

University of Birmingham

ROR

<https://ror.org/03angcq70>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Government

Funder Name

European Commission

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

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?
HRA research summary			26/07/2023	No	No
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes