

A double blind, randomised, parallel group study evaluating the efficacy of a homeopathic remedy in asthma

Submission date 23/01/2004	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	☐ Prospectively registered ☐ Protocol
Registration date 23/01/2004	Overall study status Completed	☐ Statistical analysis plan ☒ Results
Last Edited 29/11/2013	Condition category Respiratory	☐ Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Not provided at time of registration

Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number

R/35/9.95/Holg

Study information

Scientific Title

Study objectives

The use of homoeopathy in the treatment of allergic disease remains controversial. Two recent reviews concluded that, of the numerous trials investigating homoeopathy, many were methodologically unsound. Numerous calls have been made for better designed and conducted studies in homoeopathy and other complementary therapies. Two such studies investigating the role of homoeopathy in patients with allergic rhinitis and asthma have been performed in Glasgow. Both of these randomised controlled trials reported a significant effect in favour of homoeopathy. This grant proposal aims to replicate the Glasgow findings in their asthma study using an identical treatment in a larger number of patients, and with greater statistical power. The protocol has been developed by extensive consultation within the research homoeopathic community, and will assess two main outcome measures, namely forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV1) and the percentage of asthma problem-free days (%PFD). In addition it will employ a number of secondary outcomes to assess well being with respect to asthma. It is anticipated that this trial will provide guidance on whether homoeopathy should be available as a new service provision to purchasers within the NHS, and as such will have significant resource implications for the NHS.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Not provided at time of registration

Primary study design

Interventional

Study design

Randomised controlled trial

Study type(s)

Not Specified

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Respiratory tract diseases: Asthma

Interventions

Participants were randomised to receive oral homeopathic immunotherapy or identical placebo

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Specified

Primary outcome(s)

Clinical based assessments: forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV1), quality of life and mood. Diary based assessments: morning and evening peak expiratory flow, visual analogue scale of severity of asthma, quality of life and daily mood

Key secondary outcome(s)

Not provided at time of registration

Completion date

01/01/1999

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

Aged 18-55, positive skin prick test to house dust mite, re-diagnosed asthma in response to bronchodilators and activity limited by asthma during pre-treatment baseline period

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 Years

Upper age limit

55 Years

Sex

Not Specified

Key exclusion criteria

Previous drug trial within 30 days, previous treatment with homeopathic immunotherapy, pregnancy, respiratory tract infection within 3 weeks of recruitment or change in asthma medication in the 2 weeks prior to entry

Date of first enrolment

01/04/1996

Date of final enrolment

01/01/1999

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre
University of Southampton
Southampton
United Kingdom
SO14 0YG

Sponsor information

Organisation
NHS R&D Regional Programme Register - Department of Health (UK)

Funder(s)

Funder type
Government

Funder Name
NHS Executive South West

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary
Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	02/03/2002		Yes	No