

# A study on the safety and effectiveness of fedratinib with ropeginterferon alfa-2b in patients with myelofibrosis

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<b>Registration date</b> 16/06/2022	<b>Overall study status</b> Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 03/02/2026	<b>Condition category</b> Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

Myelofibrosis (MF) is a rare bone marrow cancer that causes scarring of the bone marrow. The scar tissue builds up inside your bone marrow leaving blood cells unable to develop properly. Symptoms of MF include anaemia (low red cell levels), weakness, tiredness and often an enlarged spleen. MF can develop without having had any other conditions; this is called primary myelofibrosis. Secondary myelofibrosis is where the condition develops in people who have other bone marrow disorders, such as polycythaemia vera or essential thrombocythaemia. More than 55 in 100 people (more than 55%) with MF have a change in a gene called JAK2. The JAK2 gene makes a protein that controls how many blood cells your body makes. JAK2 inhibitors are drugs that slow or stop the growth of cancer cells. They are also called cancer growth blockers. Although JAK2 inhibitors, such as ruxolitinib, and fedratinib, have shown promising results for some patients with MF, treatment with a JAK2 inhibitor does not usually cure the patient's disease.

Pegylated interferon is a type of immunotherapy that can be used to treat MF. Previous studies have shown that combining a JAK2 inhibitor with a pegylated interferon in patients with MF is safe to administer and may be more effective. This is thought to be because the interferon makes the stem cells that eventually develop into blood cells (haematopoietic cells) more sensitive to the JAK2 inhibitor.

The FEDORA study will use a selective JAK2 inhibitor called fedratinib, and a next generation pegylated interferon called ropeginterferon alfa-2b. Fedratinib has better activity against JAK2 than some other JAK2 inhibitors, and is given as an oral tablet. Roppeginterferon alfa-2b has been shown to be better tolerated than previous pegylated interferons and is self administered as an injection into the skin.

The aim of the FEDORA study is to gather more information about whether the combination of fedratinib and ropeginterferon alfa-2b is tolerated, and whether it provides a benefit to MF patients.

### Who can participate?

Patients with primary or secondary MF that require treatment and have the JAK2 mutation

### What does the study involve?

If participants chose to join the study they will be asked to give written informed consent and screening assessments will take place (including medical history, physical examination, blood test) to confirm if they are suitable for the study. Study participants will begin treatment with fedratinib on its own (pre-treatment) to ensure they can tolerate this treatment. After a month of pre-treatment, a low starting dose of ropeginterferon alfa-2b will be added to their treatment regimen. This dose of ropeginterferon alfa-2b will be increased every month if the participant is doing well on the combination and their blood counts are stable or reduced if they are suffering with side effects. Once a dose combination is reached that the participant is able to tolerate, they would remain on these doses for the duration of the study. We will collect information about the participant and their disease, how it responds to treatment and any side effects they experience for 2 years after the start of their treatment. Assessments will include physical examinations, blood tests, spleen assessments, quality of life questionnaires, thiamine testing and 6 monthly ultrasounds of spleen. Participants may continue on treatment for up to 2 years (24 monthly cycles). We will also collect bone marrow and blood samples at time-points which are in line with routine sample collection to monitor the participants disease.

### What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

**Benefits** - There is no guaranteed benefit to taking part in this study because we do not yet know whether this combination of treatments is better than the standard treatment. It is possible that the new treatment is not as good as the standard treatment. Equally, it is possible that the standard treatment is not as good which is why this study is being done. The careful monitoring you will receive if you take part in this study is a safeguard against this risk. The information gained from this study will help improve treatment for other people with MF in the future.

**Risks** - It is possible that you will experience side effects from your treatment whether you take part in this study or not. Treatment for MF affects all healthy cells within the bone marrow as well as the cancer cells. This means that you might not be able to produce normal numbers of red blood cells, and you might need blood transfusions. If you are not able to produce enough platelets in your blood, you could be at risk of bleeding, so treatment might need to be reduced or you might need a platelet transfusion. More importantly the white blood cell count can fall, meaning that you could be at high risk of serious infections. Your doctor will instruct you about the steps to be taken if you develop a high temperature. If you do develop a temperature this can quickly turn into a life-threatening infection without prompt treatment so it is important that you receive medical attention and antibiotics straight away. Both fedratinib and Roppeginterferon alfa-2b are known to lower patients' blood counts.

### Where is the study run from?

University of Birmingham (UK)

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

February 2021 to June 2026

### Who is funding the study?

Cure Leukaemia (UK)

Celgene (USA)

AOP Orphan Pharmaceuticals (Austria)

### Who is the main contact?

Dr Catherine Thomas

fedora@trials.bham.ac.uk

# Contact information

## Type(s)

Scientific

## Contact name

Dr Catherine Thomas

## Contact details

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# Additional identifiers

## Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)

2021-004056-42

## Integrated Research Application System (IRAS)

1003972

## Protocol serial number

CPMS 53036, IRAS 1003972

# Study information

## Scientific Title

A phase II study to evaluate the tolerability, safety and activity of fedratinib combined with ropeginterferon alfa-2b in patients with myelofibrosis

## Acronym

FEDORA

## Study objectives

Evaluate the tolerability, safety and activity of fedratinib combined with ropeginterferon alfa-2b in patients with myelofibrosis

## Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

## Ethics approval(s)

Approved 30/03/2022, Yorkshire & The Humber - Leeds West Research Ethics Committee (NHSBT Newcastle Blood Donor Centre, Holland Drive, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4NQ, UK; +44 2071048083; bradfordleeds.rec@hra.nhs.uk), ref: 21/YH/0300

**Study design**

Interventional non randomized

**Primary study design**

Interventional

**Study type(s)**

Treatment

**Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Myelofibrosis

**Interventions**

Treatment is delivered in 28-day cycles. During an initial pre-treatment stage, patients are established onto a stable dose of fedratinib. The starting dose of 400mg can be reduced in the event of toxicity. Once a patient has completed a 28-day cycle on a stable dose of fedratinib, combination therapy with ropeginterferon alfa-2b starts at cycle 1. Ropoginterferon alfa-2b is taken subcutaneously on days 1 and 15 of each cycle, starting at a 100 microgram dose. Ropoginterferon alfa-2b dose is escalated in 50 microgram increments at the start of each cycle, up to a maximum of 250 microgram, as long as the patient is tolerating combination treatment. Trial treatment will continue for up to 2 years. Patients will be followed-up monthly whilst on trial treatment, and then every 3 months following treatment completion or discontinuation, to monitor survival, progression and subsequent treatments until the end of the trial.

**Intervention Type**

Drug

**Phase**

Phase II

**Drug/device/biological/vaccine name(s)**

fedratinib, ropeginterferon alfa-2b

**Primary outcome(s)**

Tolerability of combination therapy. A patient is classified as not tolerating treatment if they discontinue either fedratinib or ropeginterferon alfa-2b due to drug-related toxicity, due to delays in treatment exceeding 28 consecutive days due to drug-related toxicity, or if a treatment toxicity-related death is reported, within 4 months of starting combination therapy.

**Key secondary outcome(s)**

1. Tolerability of combination therapy throughout the treatment course. A patient is classified as not tolerating treatment as per the definition for the primary outcome.
2. Best overall response, defined to be complete or partial response, assessed using IWG criteria (spleen size assessed by palpation) within 12 and 24 months from starting combination therapy.
3. The highest tolerated dose of ropeginterferon alfa-2b, in combination with fedratinib, achieved by each patient. To be tolerated, the dose must have been maintained for at least one complete cycle.
4. Toxicity, defined as the proportion of patients experiencing any grade  $\geq 3$  adverse event, or a serious adverse event of any grade.
5. Overall survival, defined to be time from starting combination therapy to date of death from

any cause.

6. Progression-free survival, defined as the time from starting combination therapy to first event or death from any cause. An event here is defined to be any of the following: an increase in bone marrow fibrosis, an increase in spleen size by more than 5cm or transformation to acute myeloid leukaemia.

7. Quality of life, assessed using the MFSAF v2.0 total symptom score at trial entry and at the end of each cycle of treatment

8. JAK2 V617F clone size, measured at trial entry and 3-monthly during treatment.

9. Bone marrow fibrosis, assessed using consensus definitions (Thiele et al. 2005), at trial entry and 6-monthly during treatment.

### **Completion date**

30/06/2026

## **Eligibility**

### **Key inclusion criteria**

1. Age 18 or over at trial entry

2. Confirmed diagnosis of JAK2 V617F positive primary or secondary MF, according to WHO 2016 diagnostic criteria

3. Require treatment, as clinically determined by local investigator

4. Intermediate-2 or high risk according to DIPSS, or intermediate-1 according to DIPSS with palpable splenomegaly >5cm

5. Peripheral blood or bone marrow blasts <10%

6. Adequate blood counts: platelets  $\geq 75 \times 10^9/L$ , neutrophils  $\geq 1.0 \times 10^9/L$

7. Adequate organ function

### **Participant type(s)**

Patient

### **Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

### **Age group**

Mixed

### **Lower age limit**

18 years

### **Upper age limit**

99 years

### **Sex**

All

### **Total final enrolment**

0

### **Key exclusion criteria**

1. Previous treatment with a JAK2 inhibitor or interferon alpha
2. Chemotherapy or biologic therapy within 2 weeks of commencing the trial treatment, or ongoing toxicity relating to prior therapy
3. Blood thiamine concentration below lower limit of normal
4. Active malignancy treated in the last 2 years
5. Pre-existing and uncontrolled thyroid disease, diabetes or autoimmune disease
6. History of severe psychiatric disorder, including severe depression, suicidal ideation and suicide attempt
7. Current severe or uncontrolled cardiovascular disease
8. Previous organ transplantation receiving ongoing immunosuppression
9. Evidence of active HIV, HBV or HCV infection
10. Pregnant and breast feeding patients and those unwilling to use effective contraception

**Date of first enrolment**

12/09/2022

**Date of final enrolment**

31/03/2024

## **Locations**

**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

Northern Ireland

Scotland

Wales

**Study participating centre**

**Belfast Health and Social Care Trust**

Trust Headquarters

A Floor - Belfast City Hospital

Lisburn Road

Belfast

Northern Ireland

BT9 7AB

**Study participating centre**

**NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde**

J B Russell House

Gartnavel Royal Hospital

1055 Great Western Road Glasgow

Glasgow  
Scotland  
G12 0XH

**Study participating centre**

**John Radcliffe Hospital**

Headley Way  
Oxford  
England  
OX3 9DU

**Study participating centre**

**Queen's Medical Centre**

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust  
Derby Road  
Nottingham  
England  
NG7 2UH

**Study participating centre**

**Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre**

Edgbaston  
Birmingham  
England  
B15 2TH

**Study participating centre**

**Northern General Hospital**

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
Herries Road  
Sheffield  
England  
S5 7AU

**Study participating centre**

**Southampton General Hospital**

University of Southampton and University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust  
Tremona Road  
Southampton  
England  
SO16 6YD

**Study participating centre**

**St James's University Hospital**

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust  
Beckett Street  
Leeds  
England  
LS9 7TF

**Study participating centre**

**The Christie NHS Foundation Trust**

550 Wilmslow Road  
Withington  
Manchester  
England  
M20 4BX

**Study participating centre**

**University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

250 Euston Road  
London  
England  
NW1 2PG

**Study participating centre**

**Cardiff & Vale University Lhb**

Woodland House  
Maes-y-coed Road  
Cardiff  
Wales  
CF14 4HH

**Study participating centre**

**Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust**

St Thomas' Hospital  
Westminster Bridge Road,  
London  
England  
SE1 7EH

# Sponsor information

## Organisation

University of Birmingham

## ROR

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

# Funder(s)

## Funder type

Charity

## Funder Name

Cure Leukaemia

## Funder Name

Celgene

## Funder Name

AOP Orphan Pharmaceuticals

# Results and Publications

## Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study will be available upon request from the trial management group by contacting [fedora@trials.bham.ac.uk](mailto:fedora@trials.bham.ac.uk) following the end of the study. Each request will be considered on a case by case basis and any research must have the relevant approvals in place. Consent for any future ethically approved research is requested and documented on the Informed Consent Form for the trial.

## IPD sharing plan summary

Available on request

## Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Protocol article</a>		10/01/2025	20/01/2025	Yes	No
<a href="#">HRA research summary</a>			28/06/2023	No	No