
Renal Association Clinical Trials Sub-committee

Minutes

23rd November 2005

Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge

Present:

David Jayne (DJ, chair), Colin Baigent (CB), Lorraine Harper (LH), Robert Preston (RP), David Wheeler (DW).

2. Apologies for absence:

Apologies had been received from Jo Adu, Paramit Chawdry, Martin Landray, Peter Mathieson, Nick Webb, Keith Wheatley.

3. Minutes of last meeting:

These had been previously circulated by e-mail and were approved as a correct record.

3. Matters arising

4. Restructuring of Renal Association Subcommittees

The trials subcommittee has been placed under the Renal Association Research and Education Board, Chaired by the President, which will be responsible for the election of members. There is no direct representation on the Clinical Affairs board chaired by the Clinical Vice-President. It has been suggested that two elected members of the renal executive be invited to join the Clinical Trials Subcommittee

5. BTS/Renal Association Study Day

A successful day in Cambridge – see attached agenda.

Main stumbling block currently is trust R&D approvals with variable practice between trusts.

Discussions on merger of trials subcommittees. Agree that a successful trial would be best way for subcommittees to work together.

6. UK Clinical trials network

Caroline Savage has prepared a proposal for a UK nephrology research network. It was felt to be important to list a series of questions for potential trials. Possible

areas for trials discussed included: Cardiovascular disease – aspirin (CB), vitamin D, peritoneal dialysis, proteinuric renal disease.

7. **RA meeting in Harrogate**

90 minute parallel session. MMF in lupus nephritis selected as topic to be discussed. Current Aspreva trial can be mentioned. Review of ongoing trials. Jo Adu to be invited to critique the Ginzler trial. Updates of ongoing multi-centre trials.

8. **Ongoing trials.**

ASTRAL, PK to update

SHARP, 5890, 2/3 of the way to recruiting. Active in 15 countries, aiming for 19. IMPROVE trial (MMF in vasculitis), follow-up is ongoing.

Lupus nephritis. MMF induction trial (ALMS) has been designed by ASPREVA pharmaceuticals and launched in the US. UK launch in early 2006.

Membranous nephropathy, 98/120 recruited.

MERIT (plasma exchange in myeloma) has been launched.

9. **New proposals**

Myfortic induction in vasculitis (LH)

Calciphylaxis registry (Janet Hegarty, Hope Hospital). Consider a randomised trial, there is an existing register (Aachen), consider AMGEN support, website reporting.

Previously reviewed proposals: TREAT (Aranesp in diabetic nephropathy) trial is going ahead, no further progress on restless legs project.

10. **Any other business**

Discussion of encouraging involvement of trainees in clinical trials. At least two courses on clinical trials design, London School of Hygiene and Birmingham. ?

11. **Date of next meeting**

At RA Harrogate meeting in May.
