# Surgical excision versus combined therapy with Curettage and Imiquimod for Nodular Basal Cell Carcinoma: an open, non-inferiority, randomized controlled trial

Published: 24-09-2014 Last updated: 21-04-2024

Primary objective: To compare long-term efficacy of curettage prior to IMQ 5% cream (Aldara®) therapy versus standard surgical excision in primary nBCC. Secondary objective: To assess compliance, pain, cosmetic outcomes, patient satisfaction, patient...

**Ethical review** Approved WMO **Status** Recruitment stopped

**Health condition type** Skin neoplasms malignant and unspecified

Study type Interventional

# **Summary**

#### ID

NL-OMON44993

#### Source

ToetsingOnline

**Brief title** 

S.C.I.N. Trial

#### Condition

Skin neoplasms malignant and unspecified

#### **Synonym**

Nodular Basal Cell Carcinoma, Skincancer

#### Research involving

Human

## **Sponsors and support**

**Primary sponsor:** Medisch Universitair Ziekenhuis Maastricht

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Ministerie van OC&W, Meda Pharma BV

#### Intervention

**Keyword:** Basal Cell Carcinoma, Curettage, Imiguimod, Surgery

#### **Outcome measures**

#### **Primary outcome**

The primary study endpoint is the proportion free of initial nBCC patients at one 1 year after end of treatment (defined as absence of initial treatment failure or any clinical signs of subsequent local recurrence). In case there is clinical suspicion of BCC, a 3 mm punch biopsy will be taken for histological verification.

### **Secondary outcome**

Secondary outcome parameters are the 5-year cumulative probability of recurrence free of initial nBCC survival at 5 years after end of treatment, compliance, cosmetic appearance, patient satisfaction, patient preference and cost-effectiveness.

# **Study description**

#### **Background summary**

Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) is a slow-growing, locally invasive malignant epidermal skin tumour. It is the most common malignant disease in Caucasians, representing approximately 80% of all cases of skin cancer and is therefore an important health problem. In the Netherlands incidence rates are 165 for men and 157 for women per 100.000 person-years, and these rates are rising with 3-10% every year.

A simplified histological classification of BCCs includes the following three

subtypes: nodular, superficial and infiltrative variants, with the nodular variant being the most frequent type. Although a characteristic feature of BCCs is their low risk to metastasize, if untreated they may be locally invasive and may induce considerable functional and cosmetic morbidity.

The gold standard treatment of all histological BCC subtypes is surgical excision, but not all patients are eligible for surgery. Surgery may lead to significant morbidity, and in some cases, it may result in disfiguring scarring. For this reason and to reduce workload and costs in the healthcare system, there is a growing demand for alternative, non-invasive, treatments. An advantage of non-invasive treatment options is that they can be performed by other healthcare professionals, such as general practitioners, specialized nurses or professionals in elderly homes.

For treatment of superficial BCCs (sBCC) non-invasive treatments, such as topical imiquimod (IMQ), 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) or photodynamic therapy (PDT) are already commonly used. A recent study suggests that IMQ, besides being an immune-response modifier, can also directly inhibit sonic hedgehog (SHH) signalling, the most important pathway active in BCCs. This targeted effect of IMQ very likely explains the superior therapeutic effect compared to other non-invasive therapies. In literature, effective treatment of nodular BCC (nBCC) with IMQ has been described, however, efficacy was inferior to surgical excision. We hypothesize that the effectiveness of IMQ will rise by performing prior curettage to IMQ therapy.

#### **Study objective**

Primary objective: To compare long-term efficacy of curettage prior to IMQ 5% cream (Aldara®) therapy versus standard surgical excision in primary nBCC.

Secondary objective: To assess compliance, pain, cosmetic outcomes, patient satisfaction, patient preference and cost-effectiveness.

#### Study design

Open-label, parallel-group, non-inferiority, randomized controlled trial

#### Intervention

Studyarm 1: IMQ 5% cream once daily, 5 days a week, for six weeks, with prior curettage.

Studyarm 2: Standard surgical excision with 3-5 mm margins.

#### Study burden and risks

First visit, description of the lesion, biopsy, telephonic consultation,

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surgical excision and two to three control visits are part of regular care of nBCC. Treatment with IMQ 5% cream and one control (after 5 year follow-up) visit are part of the study.

A potential risk when participating in this study is an allergic skin reaction for one of the components of the IMQ 5% cream.

Local skin reactions at application site represent a special safety issue for topically applied treatments. Local skin reactions can be easily controlled and therefore are acceptable for the subjects. In case of residu, an surgical excision has to be performed. We do not expect any other risks.

## **Contacts**

#### **Public**

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## **Trial sites**

#### **Listed location countries**

**Netherlands** 

# **Eligibility criteria**

#### Age

Adults (18-64 years) Elderly (65 years and older)

#### Inclusion criteria

- Adults aged 18 years or older
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- Primary histologically proven nodular basal cell carcinoma \* 4mm and \* 20mm in diameter
- Patient is able to apply cream
- Comorbidities may not interfere with study treatment (evaluated by investigator)
- Capable to understand instructions

#### **Exclusion criteria**

- A nodular BCC located in the H-zone of the face or hairy scalp
- Recurrent (previously treated) nBCC
- Aggressive histopathologcial BCC subtypes
- Life expectancy of less than five years
- Breast-feeding or pregnant women
- Serious comorbidities (evaluated by investigator)
- Use of immunosuppressive medication during the trial period untill 3 months after end of treatment or within 30 days before enrolment
- Patients with genetic skin cancer disorders

# Study design

## **Design**

Study phase: 3

Study type: Interventional

Intervention model: Parallel

Allocation: Randomized controlled trial

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Active

Primary purpose: Treatment

#### Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped

Start date (anticipated): 25-01-2016

Enrollment: 144

Type: Actual

## Medical products/devices used

Product type: Medicine

Brand name: Aldara 5% cream

Generic name: Imiquimod 5% cream

Registration: Yes - NL outside intended use

## **Ethics review**

Approved WMO

Date: 24-09-2014

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit

Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

Approved WMO

Date: 10-11-2014

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit

Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

Approved WMO

Date: 22-04-2015

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit

Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

Approved WMO

Date: 28-09-2015

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit

Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

Approved WMO

Date: 23-12-2015

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit

Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

Approved WMO

Date: 15-01-2016

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit

Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

Approved WMO

Date: 05-10-2016

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit

Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

Approved WMO

Date: 14-10-2016

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit

Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

Approved WMO

Date: 26-04-2017

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit

Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

Approved WMO

Date: 17-05-2017

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit

Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

# **Study registrations**

## Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

# Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

## In other registers

Register

EudraCT ClinicalTrials.gov CCMO ID

EUCTR2014-003479-52-NL NCT02242929 NL50433.068.14