# Enhancing the BCG-induced trained immunity response by addition of bisphosphonate or MMR vaccine: a possible preventive approach against COVID-19 (BCG-PLUS)

Published: 26-05-2020 Last updated: 09-04-2024

To investigate the effect of bisphosphonates and the MMR vaccine on BCG-induced trained immunity as a possible preventive approach against COVID-19

Ethical reviewApproved WMOStatusRecruitment stoppedHealth condition typeImmune disorders NEC

Study type Interventional

# **Summary**

#### ID

NL-OMON49014

#### Source

ToetsingOnline

#### **Brief title**

Enhancing the BCG-induced TI via bisphosphonates or MMR vaccine

## **Condition**

- Immune disorders NEC
- Ancillary infectious topics

#### **Synonym**

innate immune memory, trained immunity

#### Research involving

Human

## **Sponsors and support**

**Primary sponsor:** Radboud Universitair Medisch Centrum **Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** Spinoza grant

#### Intervention

Keyword: BCG, COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2

#### **Outcome measures**

#### **Primary outcome**

The main study parameter is the fold-increase in production of pro-inflammatory

cytokines by PBMCs/monocytes following vaccination.

## **Secondary outcome**

Metabolic changes and epigenetic profiles

# **Study description**

## **Background summary**

There is currently no specific treatment or vaccine for SARS-CoV-2. Induction of trained immunity by BCG vaccination is a promising non-specific preventive measure, but not all individuals respond equally strongly to it. It is therefore important to maximize the protective potential of BCG. This study will investigate the efficacy of bisphosphonates and the MMR vaccine to enhance trained immunity responses to BCG vaccination in order to implement this as a preventive strategy against COVID-19.

## Study objective

To investigate the effect of bisphosphonates and the MMR vaccine on BCG-induced trained immunity as a possible preventive approach against COVID-19

## Study design

Explorative randomized controlled trial.

#### Intervention

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- 1. Placebo treatment
- 2. BCG vaccination
- 3. BCG vaccination + oral bisphosphonate supplementation (alendronic acid)
- 4. BCG vaccination + MMR vaccine
- 5. MMR vaccine alone

## Study burden and risks

The expected risk of participation is very low. All vaccines and treatments are approved medications and no adverse interactions are expected. BCG can interfere with standard tuberculin skin test for tuberculosis, but an alternative is available (quantiferon). The participants will visit the outpatient clinic twice for blood donations. They will undergo no other invasive procedures for study purposes.

# **Contacts**

#### **Public**

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# **Trial sites**

#### **Listed location countries**

**Netherlands** 

# **Eligibility criteria**

#### Age

Adults (18-64 years)

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## Elderly (65 years and older)

## Inclusion criteria

- \* Adult (18-50 years of age);
- \* Male or female;
- \* Healthy;
- \* Written informed consent

#### **Exclusion criteria**

- \* Known allergy to (components of), or any other contraindication to, the BCG vaccine, MMR vaccine, or alendronic acid.
- \* Known (history of) active or latent Mycobacterium tuberculosis or with another mycobacterial species;
- \* Prior BCG vaccination;
- \* Acute illness 2 weeks prior to the study or (suspicion of) active infection;
- \* Pregnancy;
- \* Chronic use of any systemic drugs other than oral contraceptives;
- \* Use of NSAIDs less than 4 weeks prior to start of the study;
- \* Vaccination in the past 3 months or expected vaccination during the study period, independent of the type of vaccination;
- \* Medical history associated with immunodeficiency.

# Study design

## **Design**

Study type: Interventional

Intervention model: Parallel

Allocation: Randomized controlled trial

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Placebo

Primary purpose: Treatment

## Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped

Start date (anticipated): 03-06-2020

Enrollment: 100

Type: Actual

## Medical products/devices used

Product type: Medicine

Brand name: Alendronic acid

Generic name: alendronic acid

Registration: Yes - NL outside intended use

Product type: Medicine

Brand name: BCG Vaccine AJV

Product type: Medicine

Brand name: M-M-RVAXPRO

# **Ethics review**

Approved WMO

Date: 26-05-2020

Application type: First submission

Review commission: CMO regio Arnhem-Nijmegen (Nijmegen)

Approved WMO

Date: 28-05-2020

Application type: First submission

Review commission: CMO regio Arnhem-Nijmegen (Nijmegen)

Approved WMO

Date: 15-06-2020

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: CMO regio Arnhem-Nijmegen (Nijmegen)

# 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 ID

EudraCT EUCTR2020-002456-21-NL

CCMO NL74082.091.20