# The PREDMETH trial: Effectiveness of methotrexate versus prednisone as first-line therapy for pulmonary sarcoidosis - A randomized controlled trial

Published: 15-11-2019 Last updated: 10-01-2025

This study has been transitioned to CTIS with ID 2024-514055-15-00 check the CTIS register for the current data. Primary: • Investigate the effectiveness and tolerability of methotrexate as first-line therapy in patients with pulmonary sarcoidosis...

**Ethical review** Approved WMO **Status** Recruiting

**Health condition type** Respiratory disorders NEC

Study type Interventional

## **Summary**

#### ID

NL-OMON49109

#### Source

ToetsingOnline

#### **Brief title**

PREDMETH trial

## **Condition**

Respiratory disorders NEC

#### Synonym

Besnier-Boeck-Schaumann disease of the lung, Pulmonary sarcoidosis

## Research involving

Human

## **Sponsors and support**

**Primary sponsor:** Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

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Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Longfonds

#### Intervention

**Keyword:** lung, methotrexate, prednisone, sarcoidosis

#### **Outcome measures**

## **Primary outcome**

The change in hospital-measured Forced Vital Capacity (FVC) between baseline and 24 weeks...

## **Secondary outcome**

Other pulmonary function parameters, biomarkers, adverse events, quality of life.

# **Study description**

## **Background summary**

Sarcoidosis is a multisystem, granulomatous disorder, most commonly affecting the lungs. Symptom burden is high, and quality of life (QoL) and social participation are negatively affected. In patients with pulmonary sarcoidosis, treatment is recommended in case of significant symptoms and/or impaired or deteriorating lung function. Evidence-based treatment recommendations are limited, outdated and largely based on expert opinion.

Prednisone is currently the first-choice therapy in pulmonary sarcoidosis and leads to short-term improvement of lung function. Unfortunately, prednisone has major side-effects and is associated with impaired QoL. Methotrexate is presently considered second-line therapy, and appears to have fewer side-effects. We hypothesize that first-line treatment with methotrexate is as effective as prednisone, with fewer side-effects and better QoL

## **Study objective**

This study has been transitioned to CTIS with ID 2024-514055-15-00 check the CTIS register for the current data.

#### Primary:

- Investigate the effectiveness and tolerability of methotrexate as first-line
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therapy in patients with pulmonary sarcoidosis compared with prednisone. Secondary:

- Examine (immunological) biomarkers of disease progression and chronicity.
- Assess whether response to therapy can be predicted in individual patients.
- Gain more insights into the underlying disease mechanism and potential new targets

## Study design

Phase 4, prospective, randomized, open-label, multi-center, single country, non-inferiority trial.

Randomization 1:1 to oral prednisone (start 40 mg daily, to be tapered to 10 mg daily) or oral methotrexate (15 mg weekly to be increased to 25 mg weekly) for 24 weeks. Thereafter continuation of trial for 18 months on regular treatment (investigator decision). 138 randomized patients.

## Intervention

Treatment with prednisone or methotrexate.

## Study burden and risks

Risk: Adverse effects of study treatment.

Burden:

Physical examination: every visit (=6 times). Blood tests: every visit 80 mL per occasion

Pulmonary function: every visit.

FVC measurement at home: weekly, 24 weeks.

Questionnaires: King\*s Sarcoidosis Questionnaire, General Rating of Change, EQ-5D-5L, Patient Experience and Satisfaction with Medication Questionnaire, VAS of Dyspnea, Cough, Fatigue, Complaints, MRC Dyspnea Scale, Fatigue

Assessment Scale: every visit.

VAS at home: symptoms and side effects: weekly, 24 weeks.

## **Contacts**

#### **Public**

Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

's-Gravendijkwal 230 Rotterdam 3015 GE NI

## Scientific

Erasmus MC. Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

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's-Gravendijkwal 230 Rotterdam 3015 GE NI

## **Trial sites**

## **Listed location countries**

**Netherlands** 

# **Eligibility criteria**

## Age

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

## Inclusion criteria

- Diagnosis of sarcoidosis according to the ATS/ERS/WASOG criteria (7), in case of absent histology a diagnosis of sarcoidosis can also be established in a multidisciplinary team meeting in a sarcoidosis expert center based on a highly suggestive clinical and radiological picture (18, 19)
- Age >=18 years
- A pulmonary indication for treatment and parenchymal involvement on X-ray or CT-scan conducted within three months before inclusion (determined by the treating physician and conform current guidelines).
- A forced vital capacity (FVC) of <=90% of predicted, or a diffusion capacity of the lung for carbon monoxide (DLCO) <=70% of predicted, or >=5% FVC decline/>=10% DLCO decline in the past year. For pulmonary functions tests GLI reference values are used.

## **Exclusion criteria**

- Any condition or circumstance that, in the opinion of the investigator, may make a subject unlikely or unable to complete the study or comply with study procedures. Previous immunosuppressive treatment for sarcoidosis Use of systemic immunosuppressive therapy within the preceding three months for another disease than sarcoidosis Pregnant, breastfeeding, or planning to become pregnant or breastfeed during the study treatment or within 90 days after the last dose in the randomized study phase. For males; planning to pro-create during the study or within 90 days after the last dose of the
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randomized study phase. - Primary systemic treatment indication being an extra pulmonary location of sarcoidosis (e.g. cardiac of neurological) - Contra-indication for methotrexate or corticosteroids: • severely impaired renal function (creatinine clearance <30 ml/min) • impaired hepatic function (serum bilirubin-value >5 mg/dl or 85,5 micromole/l) • bone marrow insufficiency with severe leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, or anaemia • severe acute or chronic infections, such as tuberculosis, HIV, parasitic infections or other immunodeficiency syndromes • mouth, stomach or duodenal ulcers

# Study design

## Design

Study phase: 4

Study type: Interventional

Intervention model: Parallel

Allocation: Randomized controlled trial

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Active

Primary purpose: Treatment

## Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruiting

Start date (anticipated): 17-07-2020

Enrollment: 138

Type: Actual

## Medical products/devices used

Product type: Medicine

Brand name: Methotrexate

Generic name: Methotrexate

Registration: Yes - NL outside intended use

Product type: Medicine

Brand name: Prednisone

Generic name: Prednisone

Registration: Yes - NL intended use

# **Ethics review**

Approved WMO

Date: 15-11-2019

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

(Rotterdam)

Approved WMO

Date: 26-02-2020

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

(Rotterdam)

Approved WMO

Date: 07-12-2020

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

(Rotterdam)

Approved WMO

Date: 27-01-2021

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

(Rotterdam)

Approved WMO

Date: 01-10-2024

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

(Rotterdam)

Approved WMO

Date: 10-10-2024

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

(Rotterdam)

# **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
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EU-CTR CTIS2024-514055-15-00 EudraCT EUCTR2019-004148-31-NL

CCMO NL71782.078.19