# Low Dose Naltrexone for the induction of remission in patients with mild to moderate Crohn\*s Disease that failed conventional treatment

Published: 08-10-2019 Last updated: 14-03-2025

The aim of this preliminary study is to prospectively assess the efficacy of LDN as induction therapy in CD.

**Ethical review** Approved WMO **Status** Completed

Health condition type Gastrointestinal inflammatory conditions

Study type Interventional

# **Summary**

#### ID

NL-OMON52463

#### Source

ToetsingOnline

### **Brief title**

The LDN Crohn study

#### Condition

Gastrointestinal inflammatory conditions

#### **Synonym**

Crohn's disease, inflammatory bowel disease

## Research involving

Human

## **Sponsors and support**

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

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: ZonMW

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Intervention

Keyword: Crohn's Disease, Naltrexone, Remission

**Outcome measures** 

**Primary outcome** 

Endoscopic remission at week 12 defined as SES-CD <= 2 and ulcerated surface

subscore <=1 in all five segments.

**Secondary outcome** 

Proportion of patients in steroid free clinical remission defined as a by an

HBI score of <=4 and complete tapering of systemic corticosteroids and

endoscopic remission at week 12

Response defined by a decrease in HBI of >=3 points compared to baseline and

endoscopic response defined as a reduction of SES-CD score by >=50% vs baseline

at week 12

• Changes in laboratory measures of inflammation (CRP, fecal calprotectin) from

baseline at week 12,24 and 52

Adverse events at every visit

• Quality of life, via the disease specific and validated sIBDQ at screening,

week 4, 12, 24 and 52

• Fatigue, via the FACIT-F and MFI at screening, week 4, 12, 24 and 52

Anxiety, Depression, Sleepdisturbance, via the PROMIS NIH at screening,

week 4, 12, 24 and 52

Healthcare costs and utilization, via WPAI and EQ5D at screening, week 4, 12,

24 and 52

• PROM, via the IBD validated PRO2-tool (at screening, week 2, 4, 8, 12, 24 and

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Proportion of patients in corticosteroid free clinical remission at week 24

and 52

- Response (HBI) at week 24 and 52
- Endoscopic remission and response at week 52
- Anxiety, Depression, Sleepdisturbance, via the PROMIS NIH at screening,

week 4, 12, 24 and 52

# **Study description**

## **Background summary**

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is a chronic inflammatory disorder, which includes Crohn\*s disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC). Several drugs exist to induce and maintain remission, and these drugs are usually prescribed in a step up fashion. In contrast to UC, for patients with CD after induction of remission with corticosteroids, maintenance of remission is only achieved with immunosuppressive drugs, mainly thiopurines. Although these drugs are effective in 60% for remaining clinical remission after 12 months, the drawback of these drugs are the side effects that include bone marrow suppression, liver test abnormalities and malignancies. Pilot studies in patients with CD showed a positive effect of low dose naltrexone (LDN) therapy, with 15 of 17 patients showing a clinical response. A subsequent randomized, placebo-controlled, double blind study in 34 patients found a response rate of 88% in the LDN group versus 40% in the placebo group after 12 weeks of therapy. In addition LDN was also shown to be safe in pediatric IBD patients, and resulted in significantly reduced PCDAI scores, with 25% of patients achieving remission and 67% showing improvement of disease.(1-4)

## Study objective

The aim of this preliminary study is to prospectively assess the efficacy of LDN as induction therapy in CD.

## Study design

This is a multicentre, prospective, randomized, placebo-controlled study. Patients with mild to moderate active CD will be randomized 1:1 to receive

treatment with either LDN 4.5 mg or placebo for 12 weeks. After week 12 patients will be invited to participate in an open label exploratory extension study with visits at week 24, 26 and 52.

#### Intervention

LDN induction therapy 4.5 mg once daily or placebo orally for 12 weeks followed by open label maintenance therapy of 4.5 mg LDN once daily during one year.

## Study burden and risks

Patients participating in this study will come to their habitual check-ups at the department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. As additional burden, they will undergo a colonoscopy during screening and at week 12 and will be asked to fill out questionnaires during visits and telephone calls. During the visits blood samples and fecal samples will be collected as normal follow-up of patients with an active disease. Telephone interviews are planned at randomization, week 2 and week 6. During these calls the patients reported outcomes and clinical disease activity (HBI) will be recorded. Benefits of the proposed therapy are the anti-inflammatory effects on CD disease activity. This study will have direct impact on the management of IBD patients by determining if LDN is involved in the treatment of mild to moderate Crohn\*s disease. If LDN is possible to induce remission, this drug might be regarded as a first line therapy after failure of conventional treatment in the treatment of active CD because of the oral administration and anticipated low frequency of side effects.

## **Contacts**

## **Public**

Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

Doctor Molewaterplein 40 Rotterdam 3015 GD NL

## **Scientific**

Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

Doctor Molewaterplein 40 Rotterdam 3015 GD NL

## **Trial sites**

## **Listed location countries**

**Netherlands** 

# **Eligibility criteria**

## Age

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

### Inclusion criteria

- Age 18 or older; must have the ability to understand and sign a written ICF
- Diagnosis of Crohn\*s disease >= 3 months before screening.
- Objective evidence of inflammation at baseline as defined by endoscopy with mucosal ulcers in the ileum or colon or both, and a SES-CD score of 3-15.
- Concurrent therapies with stable doses of azathioprine, mercaptopurine, MTX or steroids

## **Exclusion criteria**

- · Current use of i.v. corticosteroids.
- Imminent need for in-hospital treatment.
- Pregnancy or lactation.
- Current treatment with investigational drug; current or past treatment within 3 months prior to randomization with a biological agent.
- Stool sample positive for Clostridium difficile (C. diff) toxin, pathogenic Escherichia coli (E. coli), Salmonella species (spp), Shigella spp, Campylobacter spp, or Yersinia spp.
- Other significant illnesses that may interfere with the study, stricture causing obstructive symptoms, or fistulising disease complicated by infection.
- Opiates use or drugs and/or alcohol abuse.

# Study design

## **Design**

Study phase: 2

Study type: Interventional

Intervention model: Parallel

Allocation: Randomized controlled trial

Masking: Double blinded (masking used)

Control: Placebo

Primary purpose: Treatment

## Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Completed Start date (anticipated): 14-01-2021

Enrollment: 122

Type: Actual

## Medical products/devices used

Product type: Medicine

Brand name: Naltrexone

Generic name: Naltrexone

Registration: Yes - NL outside intended use

# **Ethics review**

Approved WMO

Date: 08-10-2019

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

(Rotterdam)

Approved WMO

Date: 31-01-2020

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

(Rotterdam)

Approved WMO

Date: 23-11-2020

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

(Rotterdam)

Approved WMO

Date: 04-05-2021

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

(Rotterdam)

Approved WMO

Date: 02-11-2021

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

(Rotterdam)

Approved WMO

Date: 22-12-2022

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

(Rotterdam)

Approved WMO

Date: 04-01-2023

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

(Rotterdam)

Approved WMO

Date: 24-06-2023

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

(Rotterdam)

Approved WMO

Date: 28-06-2023

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

EudraCT EUCTR2019-000852-32-NL

CCMO NL69149.078.19

# **Study results**

Date completed: 01-05-2024

**Summary results** 

Trial ended prematurely