# Infusion of ex vivo-generated allogeneic natural killer cells in combination with subcutaneous IL-2 in patients with acute myeloid leukemia: a phase I/IIa study\*

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This study has been transitioned to CTIS with ID 2024-515357-16-00 check the CTIS register for the current data. The study is divided in two phases. The primary objective of phase I of the study is to evaluate the safety and toxicity of the infusion...

Ethical reviewApproved WMOStatusRecruitingHealth condition typeLeukaemiasStudy typeInterventional

## **Summary**

#### ID

NL-OMON55708

#### **Source**

ToetsingOnline

#### **Brief title**

NK4AML: Allogeneic NK-cell therapy for AML

## **Condition**

Leukaemias

#### Synonym

Acute myeloid leukemia

#### Research involving

Human

## **Sponsors and support**

**Primary sponsor:** Radboud Universitair Medisch Centrum

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Source(s) of monetary or material Support: KWF

Intervention

Keyword: Acute myeloid leukemia, Immune therapy, Natural killer cells

**Outcome measures** 

**Primary outcome** 

Phase 1: All patients will be evaluated extensively for toxicity using the

CTCAE toxicity criteria and graft versus host disease criteria. Based on this

dose-limiting toxicities will be scored. In case 1 patient will experience DLT

at a particular dose, the cohort will be increased to 6 patients. The maximum

tolerated IL-2 dose will be defined as the dose at which less than 2 patients

experience DLT within a cohort of 6 patients.

Phase 2: The primary endpoint of phase 2 of the study is to evaluate te effect

of NK cells following adoptive transfer in combination with sc IL-2 on disease

activity in patients with AML. Effect will be determined as a CR or PR

according to ELN criteria.

**Secondary outcome** 

- Evaluation of the in vivo lifespan and expansion potential of the NK cells

following adoptive transfer, either with or without IL-2 administration. For

phase 2: A positive expansion rate of the infused NK cells requires an absolute

number of  $\geq 100$  donor-derived NK cells per  $\mu$ l blood at day +7 and/or +14.

- Exploration of the functional activity of the donor NK cells in PB and BM,

either with and without sc IL-2 administration using flow cytometry and CD107a

(LAMP-1)-based degranulation and IFNy-secretion assays

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- Evaluation of IL-2 plasma levels and cytokine concentrations (IL-15, IL-7,

IFN- $\gamma$ , TNF $\alpha$ , IL-6) pre- and post infusion of IL-2, which will be correlated

with absolute lymphocyte count and in vivo NK cells persistence and expansion

- For phase 2: amount of patients eligible for allogeneic stem cell

transplantation defined at day +28

# **Study description**

## **Background summary**

AML is the most common type of acute leukemia in adults and incidence increases with age. Despite (agressive) treatment progrnosis remains poor, with at the moment a 5 years survival of 35-40% in young and 5-15% in older AML patients. New treatments are necessary. Allogeneic natural killer cell based immunotherapy is a promising adjuvant treatment with less toxicity. However the therapeutic effect can en should be improved. Our previous clinical trial showed that administration of our NK-cel product to older AML patients is safe. Additionally it showed that the NK cells do not have a high expansion potential in the patient. In this study we want to combine allogeneic NK-cel therapy with IL-2, an essential cytokine for NK cell survival and proliferation.

## Study objective

This study has been transitioned to CTIS with ID 2024-515357-16-00 check the CTIS register for the current data.

The study is divided in two phases.

The primary objective of phase I of the study is to evaluate the safety and toxicity of the infusion of ex vivo expanded RNK001 NK cells, both with and without sc IL-2 following immunosuppressive conditioning therapy in patients with AML. In this phase we will determine the maximum tolerable dose of IL-2. The primary objective of phase II of the study is to evaluate the effect of RNK001 NK cell adoptive immunotherapy in combination with sc IL-2 on disease activity in patients with AML.

## Study design

After written informed consent in- and exclusion criteria will be checked for.7 days before NK cell infusion the patient will be admitted to the hospital and will receive chemotherapy for 3 days, as preparative regimen for the NK cell

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infusion. NK-cell infusion will be followed by 6 times every other day a subcutaneous injection of IL-2, starting on the day of NK-cell administration. Patients will be admitted at least until the last IL-2 administration.

Phase 1: 3 cohorts of 3 patients receiving IL-2 in increasing dose (0, 3.0, 6.0  $\times$  10^6 IU/dose). Dose limiting toxicities (DLT\*s) will be monitored till 28 days (4 weeks) after NK cell infusion. Four weeks after NK cell infusion of the last patient in a cohort, the next patient can be included in a new cohort.

Phase 2: phase 2 consists of 2 stages; If 3 or more of the 8 patients enrolled in stage 1 of phase 2 show either CR or a PR according to ELN response criteria by day +28 post NK cell infusion an additional 10 patients will be enrolled in stage 2 to obtain a precise estimate of PR/CR. If < 3 of the 8 patients show CR or PR the study will be stopped.

#### Intervention

As preparative regimen to NK-cell administration patients receive chemotherapy for 3 days, starting one week prior to a single intravenous administration of NK-cells. Except 3 patients, the NK cell infusion will be followed by a 6 times every other day subcutaneous injection of IL-2. Follow up consists of venapunctures and 3 times (possibly 4 times) a bone marrow aspiration, combined with two times (possibly 3 times) a bone marrow biopsy.

## Study burden and risks

Due to the chemotherapy patients are vulnerable for infections which might require antibiotic treatment. In addition bloodtransfusions might be necessary. NK-cell therapy has been shown to be a less toxic treatment in published literature, including our own clinical trial. Patients experience less side effects. Although is has not been seen before, a graft versus host reaction could occur.

Administration of IL-2 subcutaneous can be accompanied by fever-like complaints, changes in blood pressure and a rash at the injection side.

# **Contacts**

#### **Public**

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#### Scientific

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## **Trial sites**

## **Listed location countries**

**Netherlands** 

# **Eligibility criteria**

#### Age

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

## Inclusion criteria

MDS with excess blasts, MDS/AML or AML patients (de novo and secondary) according to ELN 2022 criteria, who have stable disease or non-rapidly progressive disease with or without disease controlling medication, who are not eligible for allogeneic SCT

- Age > 18 years
- WHO performance 0-2
- Life expectancy of > 4 months
- Written informed consent
- Hydrea is allowed as pre-treatment to control blast count until day -3
- Other disease controlling medication is allowed until day -7

## **Exclusion criteria**

- Progressive disease in case of previous therapy
- Patients on immunosuppressive drugs or active GvHD
- Patients with active infections (viral, bacterial or fungal); acute anti-infectious therapy must have been completed within 7 days prior to study treatment
- Severe cardiovascular disease (CTCAE III-IV)
- Severe pulmonary dysfunction (CTCAE III-IV)
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- Severe renal dysfunction (CTCAE III-IV)
- Severe hepatic dysfunction (CTCAE III-IV)
- Severe neurological or psychiatric dysfunction (CTCAE III-IV)
- Patients on concurrent chemotherapy or interferon-alpha treatment
- Pregnancy or breastfeeding

# Study design

## **Design**

Study type: Interventional

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Uncontrolled

Primary purpose: Treatment

## **Recruitment**

NL

Recruitment status: Recruiting
Start date (anticipated): 03-12-2020

Enrollment: 23

Type: Actual

## Medical products/devices used

Product type: Medicine

Generic name: Somatic cels allogenic

Product type: Medicine

Brand name: interleukin-2

Generic name: proleukin

Registration: Yes - NL outside intended use

## **Ethics review**

Approved WMO

Date: 04-03-2020

Application type: First submission

Review commission: CCMO: Centrale Commissie Mensgebonden Onderzoek (Den

Haag)

Approved WMO

Date: 20-05-2020

Application type: First submission

Review commission: CCMO: Centrale Commissie Mensgebonden Onderzoek (Den

Haag)

Approved WMO

Date: 29-09-2020

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: CCMO: Centrale Commissie Mensgebonden Onderzoek (Den

Haag)

Approved WMO

Date: 03-11-2020

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: CCMO: Centrale Commissie Mensgebonden Onderzoek (Den

Haag)

Approved WMO

Date: 21-01-2021

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: CCMO: Centrale Commissie Mensgebonden Onderzoek (Den

Haag)

Approved WMO

Date: 10-02-2021

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: CCMO: Centrale Commissie Mensgebonden Onderzoek (Den

Haag)

Approved WMO

Date: 18-08-2021

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: CCMO: Centrale Commissie Mensgebonden Onderzoek (Den

Haag)

Approved WMO

Date: 24-09-2021

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: CCMO: Centrale Commissie Mensgebonden Onderzoek (Den

Haag)

Approved WMO

Date: 27-05-2022

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: CCMO: Centrale Commissie Mensgebonden Onderzoek (Den

Haag)

Approved WMO

Date: 23-06-2022

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: CCMO: Centrale Commissie Mensgebonden Onderzoek (Den

Haag)

Approved WMO

Date: 14-05-2024

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: CCMO: Centrale Commissie Mensgebonden Onderzoek (Den

Haag)

Approved WMO

Date: 04-06-2024

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: CCMO: Centrale Commissie Mensgebonden Onderzoek (Den

Haag)

Approved WMO

Date: 17-10-2024

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: CCMO: Centrale Commissie Mensgebonden Onderzoek (Den

Haag)

Approved WMO

Date: 23-10-2024

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: CCMO: Centrale Commissie Mensgebonden Onderzoek (Den

Haag)

# **Study registrations**

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

No registrations found.

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

ID: 25848 Source: NTR

Title:

## In other registers

Register ID

EU-CTR CTIS2024-515357-16-00 EudraCT EUCTR2019-001929-27-NL

ClinicalTrials.gov NCT04347616 CCMO NL67150.000.19