neocirculation

Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust

NEO-CIRC-003: An international study to investigate the effectiveness of dobutamine in supporting the hearts of premature babies soon after birth

Parent Information Leaflet

NOT APPROVED – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Introduction

The birth of your baby may have occurred very suddenly and unexpectedly, or may happen soon, and we do appreciate that this is a difficult time for you and that it may not seem a good moment to be talking about research. However we think it is important that you know about a study that this hospital is taking part in to help premature babies (babies born before their due dates).

There is a small possibility your baby may be eligible for this study. This leaflet explains why we are doing this study and what it involves. We would be grateful if you would take a few minutes to read this information.

A member of our Research Team will speak with you in more detail and answer any questions you may have: contact details are on the back of this leaflet. More information for parents can also be found on the study website: **www.neocirculation.eu**.

We will always ask for your written agreement before including your baby in the study.

Summary of the study

This study has been designed by a group of experts and specialist doctors from the UK, Europe and the USA who have been working together to find out the best way to help premature babies when their heart does not pump effectively after birth.

We would like to compare three existing ways to help these babies. We will closely observe these babies using various tests to see whether their situation improves and determine which tests are more useful.

Why are we doing this study?

When a baby is newly born, many changes happen soon after birth as the baby adapts to life outside of the womb. Some premature babies may need help with the pumping of their heart. Different hospitals have different ways of trying to help them. These are:

- Fluid bolus (fluid infused rapidly)
- Infusion of drugs
- Combination of the two

One of the drugs often used to help babies' hearts is Dobutamine. We are particularly interested to find out whether this drug is helpful to premature babies after birth and if it is, then how much Dobutamine should be used. This is the main purpose of this study.

Doctors need to be able to check how well the heart is pumping blood around the body. For this purpose we will scan the heart and brain, and we will use blood tests, urine tests and other hospital tests, to see which of these are more useful.

What will happen if my baby is enrolled into this trial?

If you agree to your baby taking part in the study, the medical team will closely monitor your baby during the first week after birth. Should your baby's heart not pump blood around the body well after birth, your baby's doctor may decide to start treatment. In this case your baby will initially receive a bolus of saline (a harmless solution of weak salt water). This is given routinely to premature babies to boost the movement of blood around the body.

Your baby will then be allocated to one of three study groups shown in Figure 1 below. **All babies in all groups first receive the bolus of saline.** The first group of babies then have a slow infusion of saline without any drug, also known as a placebo. The next two groups receive an infusion containing the study drug Dobutamine with two different standard doses. Both doses are considered safe and are currently used by hospitals in the UK and other countries to support the hearts of premature babies after birth.

The allocation of your baby to a group will be random and decided by a computer program. To ensure a fair comparison of the three groups, neither you nor the doctors or nurses will know which treatment option is allocated to your baby. **If your baby is not improving, your baby's doctors will commence additional treatment straightaway, regardless of the study.**

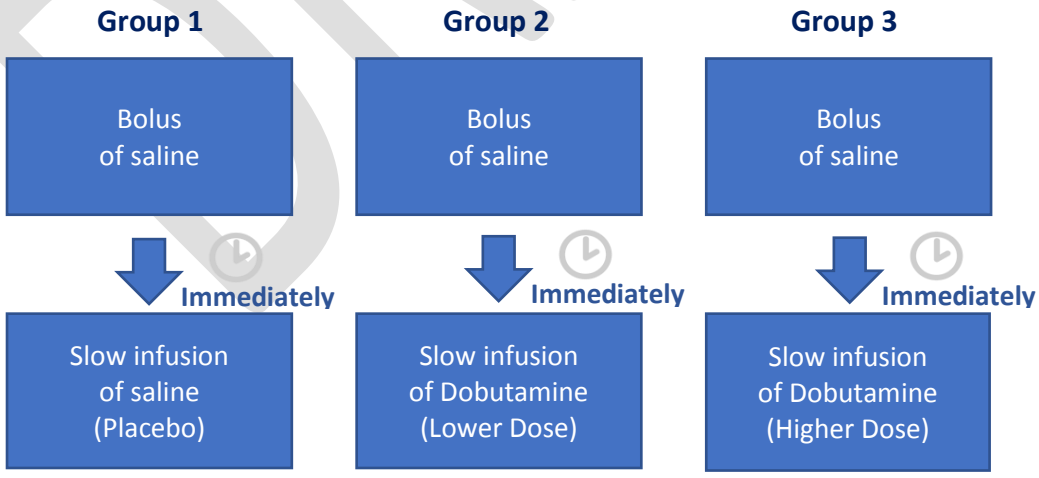

Figure 1 - Babies enrolled into the study will be allocated to one of three study groups.

What is the difference with standard treatment?

There is no proven best standard treatment. At the moment there is debate amongst doctors regarding if it is better to use a bolus on its own; or if it is better to use a bolus plus a drug like Dobutamine. This study expects to clarify which is best.

Babies in the neonatal unit have blood samples taken routinely as part of their normal care. For the babies allocated to one of the study groups a maximum of 3 additional blood study samples of 0.4 millilitres (1/2 teaspoon) each will be obtained from your baby. We will try to take the study samples whenever your doctor decides for your baby to have a blood test. If possible these will be taken from an existing tube already connected to your baby to avoid additional pain or discomfort. Blood samples will be sent to one of our study centres in France for processing.

For the purpose of this study, scientists have developed a new formulation of Dobutamine containing fewer preservatives. Currently we can only use this new version of Dobutamine within this study. It is not available yet in the NHS.

What are the risks of the study?

We do not expect problems for your baby related to the study procedures. The three study groups' options are currently used by doctors to help the babies' hearts after birth. Your baby's condition will be carefully monitored by the medical team. Most of the observations would be done as part of routine care. **The welfare of your baby will always take priority.**

The active component of the new formulation of Dobutamine is the same as the one in standard Dobutamine (which has been used for decades). Therefore we do not expect any extra risks or side effects if it is given to your baby. We have an Independent Data Monitoring Committee to assess all the risks to your baby on a continual basis.

What are the benefits of the study?

We cannot promise that the study will benefit your baby but the information that we gather may improve the treatment of other premature babies in the future.

How many babies will take part and who is involved in this study?

Around 270 babies born under 33 week's gestation from neonatal units across the UK and Europe will participate in this study.

Does my baby have to take part?

You do not have to agree to your baby taking part in this study. If you decide not to take part it will not affect in any way the quality of care you and your baby receive.

If you decide that you would like your baby to take part and then change your mind, your baby can be taken out of the study at any time. In this case, we will ask you if we can still use the medical information collected, before and after leaving the study.

What information will be collected about my baby?

The study will use recorded details about your baby and treatments from the hospital charts and computers. Any information that we collect in the study will be kept confidential and in a secure place. Only authorised people involved in the study will have access to it. Additionally, we ask your permission to allow regulatory bodies' access to your baby's medical information. Information about you or your baby will not be used for any purpose other than to answer the study's research questions.

After your child's second birthday we will invite you to attend an outpatient appointment to see how your baby is developing. We would be grateful if you would allow us to contact you to arrange this follow up at a later date.

Optional additional studies:

In selected hospitals you will be asked for permission to collect extra information about your baby as soon as possible after your baby is born and for the next 72 hours. You will still be able to take part in the study even if you decide you don't want us to collect the extra information explained below. We may ask to collect this information even if your baby is not given the study medication.

a. Additional observations and tests

We would like to record some observations of your baby's heart and brain. The three tests used to do this are safe and should not cause your baby any distress. They are all done routinely in baby intensive care units.

1) Ultrasound scans of your baby's heart which we call 'Echo-D'. This measures how the blood moves around the body and helps us to see how your baby's heart is working. Echo-D is done using an ultrasound similar to that used during pregnancy but this time it will be on your baby's chest.

2) Measurement of the amount of oxygen in the brain using 'Near InfraRed Spectroscopy' (NIRS). This is done by applying a small sticky disk to your baby's forehead; which is left there for up to 72 hours to take the measurements.

3) ElectroEncephaloGraphy (EEG) provides information about how the brain is working by picking up electrical activity. This is done by placing several small sticky pads onto your baby's head.

b. Genetics sub-study

We request your permission to keep a short piece of the umbilical cord for genetic studies. This sub-study will tell us whether babies respond differently to Dobutamine according to their genes. A piece of the umbilical cord is obtained at birth and sent to one of our study centres in Germany for processing. The cord would otherwise be discarded.

The human material will not be used for any additional tests and all data protection requirements will be strictly adhered to. Umbilical cord tissue and genetic information will be destroyed once the study is complete. If you would rather not take part in the genetics sub-study, your baby can still take part in the main study.

What will happen to the results of the study?

Results will be published in international journals at the end of the study. Copies of publications can be requested via the website where results will also be available: www.neocirculation.eu. Your baby will not be identified in any report or publication.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The study is funded by the European Commission, Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The Neocirculation Consortium is an international collaboration of more than 30 clinicians, scientists and clinical trials experts from 18 institutes in 8 countries in Europe and the US. Brighton & Sussex University Hospital is organising this study nationally. The research team has got all the specialties and skills needed for the study; plus extensive experience in caring for premature new born babies.

Who has reviewed the study?

Expert panels from the European Medicines Agency have approved the study. The study was also reviewed by Local Research Ethics Committees of participating centres who have agreed that it is being conducted in an appropriate manner.

The committees have also checked that we are giving you sufficient information to make an informed decision about taking part.

Groups of volunteer parents, who experienced having a baby on a Neonatal Unit, have also been involved in the development of this study.

What if there is a problem?

If at any stage you have any concerns about this study or the way it has been carried out, you should talk to a member of the research team; their contact details are on the back page.

If we are not able to resolve your complaint, please then contact the Head of Research & Development, Scott Harfield, 01273 696955 ext 7497. If you still do not feel the issue has been resolved, the Complaints department at Brighton and Sussex University Hospital NHS Trust should be contacted (01273 696955 ext 4511 complaints@bsuh.nhs.uk).

The UK study sponsor, Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals, has made arrangements for compensation (Trial Insurance) if your baby comes to any harm because of being in this study. However, it is very unlikely that your baby would suffer any harm during the study. The NHS Complaints Procedure (mentioned above) will still be available to you.

Who are my contact persons?

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the study you can contact us using the details below. Information is also available on the study website: **www.neocirculation.eu**. You can also talk to the doctor taking care of your baby in the intensive care baby unit.

Name and contact details of local study team:

Dr Ramon Fernandez
Consultant Neonatologist
Local Principal Investigator
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Royal Sussex County Hospital
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Email: paedneoresearch@bsuh.nhs.uk
Phone: 01273 696955 ext. 2396

Name and contact of UK lead:

Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust (BSUH)
PD Dr Heike Rabe
UK Chief Investigator
Trevor Mann Baby Unit
Royal Sussex County Hospital
Eastern Road
Brighton BN2 5BE, UK
Phone: 01273 696955 ext. 4195 or 2409

Name and contact of study sponsor:

Servicio Madrileño de Salud (SERMAS)
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The research team and local leader of the study want to thank you for taking the time to read this information leaflet.

If you would like to contact an independent organisation to discuss the inclusion of babies in research studies generally we suggest that you contact **Bliss, a special care baby charity**. Bliss contact details are: Chapter House, 18-20 Crucifix Lane, London SE1 3JW. Free phone Family Support Helpline: 0500 618 140.

Website: **www.bliss.org.uk**