

NCRI Sarcoma Clinical Studies Group

Introduction

The Sarcoma Clinical Studies Group has continued to be active throughout the year.

Membership and structure

We are most grateful to Dr Martin Robinson and Mr Adesege Abudu who left the Group in July 2008 for their many years of enthusiasm and service to the Group. We have welcomed to the Group Mr Lee Jeys and a consumer representative, Ms Karen Delin.

Portfolio and accrual

The following trials are open for recruitment:

- *EORTC 62012*, a trial of chemotherapy in advanced soft tissue sarcoma. Continues to accrue slowly.
- *EORTC 62991*. This trial of radiotherapy with inoperable or advanced fibromatosis is now closed and we are awaiting the result.
- *EURAMOS*. This trial continues to recruit according to schedule. Discussions are still taking place about a successor to this trial. There still remains uncertainty about the availability and cost of using NTPPE (Misalurtide) which is the only new agent said to have been of possible benefit with patients for patients with osteosarcoma. It was agreed however that at the present time, EURAMOS remains the standard treatment for patients with osteosarcoma. Thus far 1,378 patients have been registered with 780 randomised. The study will probably end in 2010 and the first analysis should be available by 2011.
- *EICESS*. This large study on ewing's sarcoma has recruited well. The R1 randomisation has now closed as sufficient numbers have been recruited. The high risk randomisation continues. Further work on a replacement trial is being carried out.
- *VORTEX*. This is a study of volume of radiotherapy in patients with limb STS. Recruitment of this trial is still below what has been anticipated largely due to slow recruitment of centres and the use of pre operative radiotherapy in some centres. There were significant improvements in accrual following meetings held in December in Birmingham and at the British Sarcoma Group Meetings.
- *Gemcitabine and Docetaxel in leiomyosarcoma*. This study has been completed and results should be available in the near future.

A full list of studies in the portfolio can be found in Table 1 overleaf:

Table 1: Sarcoma CSG portfolio

Acronym	Title	PI(s)	Status
BO06	A randomised trial of pre-operative and post-operative doxorubicin plus cisplatin at standard dose or increased dose intensity with granulocyte colony-stimulating Factor (G-CSF) in operable osteosarcoma	Ms Barbara Uscinska	Closed
EORTC 62012	Randomised trial of single agent doxorubicin versus doxorubicin plus ifosfamide in the first line treatment of advanced or metastatic soft tissue sarcoma.	Professor Ian Robert Judson	Open
EORTC 62024	Intermediate and high risk localized, completely resected, gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST) expressing KIT receptor: a controlled randomized trial on adjuvant imatinib mesylate (Glivec) versus no further therapy after complete surgery.	Dr Paolo G. Casali, Professor Penella Woll	Closed
EORTC 62063	A phase III randomised study evaluating surgery of residual disease in patients with metastatic gastro-intestinal stromal tumor responding to Imatinib mesylate.	Dr Michael Leahy	In set up

ET 2000 03 (EURO-E.W.I.N.G. 99)	European Ewing tumour working initiatives of national groups: Ewing tumour studies 1999	Professor Ian Robert Judson, Professor Ian Lewis	Closed
EURAMOS 1	A randomised trial of the European and American osteosarcoma study group to optimize treatment strategies for resectable osteosarcoma based on histological response to pre-operative chemotherapy	Dr Stefan Bielack, Dr Neyssa Marina, Dr Sigbjørn Smeland, Dr Jeremy Whelan, Dr Neyssa Marina	Open
Gemcitabine and Docetaxel in leiomyosarcoma	A phase II trial to assess the activity of Gemcitabine and Docetaxel as first line chemotherapy treatment in	Dr Sigbjørn Smeland, Dr Jeremy Whelan	Closed

	patients with unresectable leiomyosarcoma.		
NCRN061 (EORTC 62072)	A randomized double blind phase III trial of Pazopanib versus placebo in patients with soft tissue sarcoma whose disease has progressed during or following prior therapy. (PALETTE)	Dr Michael Leahy	Open
NCRN072	A randomized, open-label, multi-center phase III study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of nilotinib versus imatinib in adult patients with unresectable or metastatic gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST)	Professor Ian Robert Judson	Open
OTIS	A phase II study to determine the efficacy and safety of conventional dose Oral Treosulfan In patients with advanced pre-treated Ewing's Sarcoma	Dr Maria Michelagnoli	In set up
VORTEX	Randomised trial evaluating impact of changes in volume of post-operative radiotherapy on morbidity and limb function in adult patients with extremity soft tissue sarcoma	Dr Martin Robinson	Open
VORTEX BIOBANK	Prospective sample collection for the VORTEX randomised radiotherapy trial in adults with extremity soft tissue sarcoma	Dr Catharine West	Open
EORTC 62931	Randomized phase III trial of adjuvant chemotherapy with high-dose doxorubicin, ifosfamide and lenograstim in high grade soft tissue sarcoma.	Professor Penella Woll	Closed
EORTC 62991	Phase II pilot of moderate radiotherapy for inoperable aggressive fibromatosis	Dr Martin Robinson	Closed

152 patients were entered into trials in 2008/09 of which 77 were RCTs.

Following the report of the NICE Group, centralisation of treatment has started to take place and it is likely there will be 12 or 13 treatment centres for bone and soft tissue sarcomas in the UK. Most of these are currently entering some patients into trials but there is scope for further involvement and this will be a challenge for the Sarcoma CSG over the next few years.

Trials in Development

The Group are actively involved in collaboration with drug companies who are developing potential agents which could be used for sarcoma trials. In particular mTor inhibitors and IgF1 receptor inhibitors. These drugs may be suitable for soft tissue sarcomas, possible chordomas and possibly even for chondrosarcomas. Sarcoma patients may act as very good models for development of trials in using these drugs and the group will be looking at early end point assessment e.g. using PET scans.

A trial of Gemcitabine and Docetaxel v Doxorubin in advanced sarcoma has been submitted for funding.

3-year strategy

The current Chairman, Mr R J Grimer, has stepped down after 5 years in the post of Chair and has been succeeded by Professor Penella Woll who will take over in November 2009. The Group hopes that over the next three years it will develop further trials suitable for a wider group of sarcoma patients and will develop a series of rolling studies which can take place one after another in eligible patients. The Group is very much aware that despite the low numbers of sarcomas, patients with these conditions are likely to be treated at a limited number of centres, all of whom should be entering patients into trials. Furthermore there are an exciting number of new agents potentially available for treatment and investigation. The Group will liaise with other national and international groups (e.g. the EORTC) to maximise the potential for clinical research.

Mr Robert Grimer, Chair