Nottingham Research Ethics Committee 2
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05 March 2008

Prof Philip Bath
Stroke Assocaltation Professor of Stroke Medicine
Univerisity of Nottingham
Division of Stroke Medicine
Clinical Sciences Building, City Hospital
Nottingham
NG5 1PB

Dear Prof Bath

Full title of study:	**Determining the potential of ambulance-based randomised controlled trials in patients with hyperacute stroke; assessment of GTN in lowering blood pressure**
REC reference number:	**08/H0408/18**
Protocol number:	**Protocol Ref N/A**
EudraCT number:	**2007-004766-40**

The Research Ethics Committee reviewed the above application at the meeting held on 25 February 2008. Thank you for attending to discuss the study.

Discussion: Gillian Sare confirmed the following:

- Patients will be assessed by ambulance service by a FAST test. If they meet the criteria (scoring system) patients would be asked to be part of the trial by agreeing to a brief statement being read to them
- Entering patients into this trial will not delay the journey time or interfere with additional assessments whilst in transit to the hospital
- GTN patches take about 2-3 hours to take effect
- GTN is thought to be safe
- The study is a single centre trial, there is an error in the Protocol which includes Newcastle
- Age limit is 40+. Researcher recognised that this could still include women of child-bearing age (and that this was a recognised exclusion factor)
- Patients who are already taking part in a trial will not be included in this study until 90 days after their involvement in the previous study.
- The researcher understood the problems of including subjects in multiple trials (maximum of 2).

Ethical opinion

The members of the Committee present decided they were unable to give a favourable ethical opinion of the research, for the following reasons:

The Committee:

- Were not reassured that there is sufficient understanding of the effects of potential drops in blood pressure (and brain perfusion) in this acute situation. The researchers are currently part of an international study assessing this very point.
- Felt that the study was confused by including two potential areas of study – the assessment of ambulance crews and the introduction of GTN. This was further complicated by involving patients and carers at the acute stage and also involving individuals who would have potential compromise of cognition and communication.
- The current inclusion criteria could potentially include women who were pregnant.
- Recognised the importance of early intervention in the care of patients with a stroke and the obvious need to protect neural tissue from acute and permanent damage.
- Recognised that research needs to be undertaken in 'acute' situations and in individuals who may be able to give immediate consent.
- Would be willing to reconsider this application once the data from the international trial became available.

We regret to inform you therefore that the application is not approved.

Mental Capacity Act 2005

The committee did not approve this research project for the purposes of the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The research may not be carried out on, or in relation to, a person who lacks capacity to consent to taking part in the project.

Options for further ethical review

You may submit a new application for ethical review, taking into account the Committee's concerns. You should enter details of this application at Question A55 on the application form and include a copy of this letter, together with a covering letter explaining what changes have been made from the previous application. The application should be booked through the Central Allocation System (CAS) and would be allocated for review in the normal way. You should let CAS know if you would like the application to be reviewed again by this Committee.

Alternatively, you may appeal against the decision of the Committee by seeking a second opinion on this application from another Research Ethics Committee. The appeal would be based on the application form and supporting documentation reviewed by this Committee, without amendment. If you wish to appeal, you should notify the Head Office of the National Research Ethics Service in writing within 90 days of the date of this letter. If the appeal is allowed, NRES will appoint another REC to give a second opinion within 60 days and will arrange for the second REC to be provided with a copy of the application, together with this letter and other relevant correspondence on the application. You will be notified of the arrangements for the meeting of the second REC and will be able to attend and/or make written representations if you wish to do so.

The relevant NRES contact point is:

Joan Kirkbride
Head of Operations, The North, Midlands & East of England
National Research Ethics Service (NRES)
National Patient Safety Agency
c/o Darlington Primary Care Trust
Dr Piper House
King Street
Darlington
Co Durham
DL3 6JL

joan.kirkbride@nres.npsa.nhs.uk

Documents reviewed

The documents reviewed at the meeting were:

Document	*Version*	*Date*
Application	AB/110635/1 & C/110635/171077/1	09 January 2008
Investigator CV		19 September 2006
Letter from Sponsor		08 January 2008
Compensation Arrangements	Indemnity Arrangements	13 August 2007
GP/Consultant Information Sheets	1.0	01 November 2007
Participant Information Sheet: Relative (to continue in trial once initial assessment has been taken by a paramedic)	1.1	05 September 2006
Participant Information Sheet: Relative (to continue in trial once initial assent has been taken from the relative)	1.0	01 November 2007
Participant Information Sheet	1.0	01 November 2007
Participant Consent Form: Consent after Assent form	1	01 November 2007
Participant Consent Form: Assent form	1.0	01 November 2007
Participant Consent Form	1.0	01 November 2007
Request form for authorisation from the MHRA (Annex 1 to ENTR/CT1) without enclosures		09 January 2008

Membership of the Committee

The members of the Ethics Committee who were present at the meeting are listed on the attached sheet.

Statement of compliance

This Committee is recognised by the United Kingdom Ethics Committee Authority under the Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004, and is authorised to carry out the ethical review of clinical trials of investigational medicinal products.

The Committee is fully compliant with the Regulations as they relate to ethics committees and the conditions and principles of good clinical practice.

The Committee is constituted in accordance with the Governance Arrangements for Research Ethics Committees (July 2001) and complies fully with the Standard Operating Procedures for Research Ethics Committees in the UK.

After ethical review

Now that you have completed the application process please visit the National Research Ethics Website > After Review

Here you will find links to the following

a) Providing feedback. You are invited to give your view of the service you have received from the National Research Ethics Service on the application procedure. If you wish to make your views known please use the feedback form available on the website.
b) Re-submission/Appeal.

We would also like to inform you that we consult regularly with stakeholders to improve our service. If you would like to join our Reference Group please email referencegroup@nationalres.org.uk .

08/H0408/18	**Please quote this number on all correspondence**

Yours sincerely

Dr M Hewitt/Ms L Ellis
Chair/Co-ordinator

Email: linda.ellis@nottspct.nhs.uk

Enclosures: *List of names and professions of members who were present at the meeting and those who submitted written comments*

Copy to: *Mr Paul Cartledge*
R&D office for NHS care organisation at lead site – NUH C Campus
Clinical Trials Unit, MHRA - emailed

Nottingham Research Ethics Committee 2

Attendance at Committee meeting on 25 February 2008

Committee Members:

Name	*Profession*	*Present*	*Notes*
Dr Deborah Annesley-Williams	Consultant Neuroradiologist	No	
Ms Linda Ellis	Research Ethics Service Manager	Yes	
Dr Frances Game	Consultant Physician	Yes	
Dr Diane Gilmore	Medical Sociologist	Yes	
Dr Martin Hewitt	Consultant Paediatrician	Yes	
Mrs Sheila Hodgson	Clinical Trials Pharmacist	Yes	
Mrs Anita Hughes	Research Midwife	No	
Dr David Lott	Pharmaceutical Physician	Yes	
Mr Jonathan Mitchell	Barrister	Yes	
Mrs Ruth Musson	Pathology Specialist Nurse	Yes	
Mrs Linda Reynolds	Occupational Therapist	Yes	
Dr Simon Roe	Consultant Nephrologist	Yes	
Ms Margret Vince	Translator	Yes	
Reverend Paul Weeding	Chaplain	Yes	
Miss Emma Wilkinson	Staff Nurse	Yes	
Mrs Janice Wilson	Nurse Practitioner	Yes	