



INCTR Brussels and INCTR UK Challenge Fund

Treatment and Characterization of Burkitt Lymphoma

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Burkitt lymphoma is the most common childhood cancer in equatorial Africa, accounting for some 50% of all pediatric cancer in that region. Most families cannot afford the cost of treatment or even travel to a center capable of providing care. Yet the disease is highly curable, even when resources are limited. This project will be conducted in the form of a clinical trial, such that infrastructure building will result, as well as improved drug procurement and follow up.

INSTITUTIONS

- Ocean Road Cancer Institute (Tanzania)
- Bugando Medical Centre (Tanzania)
- Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex (Nigeria)
- University College Hospital Ibadan (Nigeria)
- Kenyatta National Hospital (Kenya)

OBJECTIVES

1. Improve treatment outcome.
2. Train staff in clinical and research management.
3. Instill discipline re: data collection; create evidence.
4. Improve management of drugs and follow-up.
5. Introduce public education to encourage early referral and to demonstrate that cancer can be cured.
6. Create a network with District hospitals as part of the care model to improve referral and follow-up.

METHODS

Undertake treatment in a clinical trial context; obtain ethical approval; develop protocol document and case report forms (CRFs). Train data managers to collect data via CRFs and synchronize with main data base in Brussels. Monitor and query data and make site visits, thus providing on-the-job training. Analyze and disseminate results.

PROGRESS

The initial results of the study from 4 centers (Ocean Road Cancer Institute, Kenyatta National Hospital, Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex and University College Hospital) of the first 356 patients were published in the British Journal of Haematology in 2012. Overall survival is over 60% at 2 years. Two new centers joined the study (St. Mary's Hospital in 2010 and Bugando Medical Centre in 2011). Pathology reviewed and centers switching to cutting needle biopsy with immunophenotyping. Linkage with basic research is possible. To date, 625 patients have been enrolled in the study.

FUTURE PLANS

- Educate public and primary healthcare practitioners
- Provide more training and education
- Devise new protocol based on present
- Evaluate other drugs in phase II studies
- Evaluate value of lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) in triage for treatment
- Collect materials for basic research