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Participant information sheet

**The IMpact of Pausing BTKi therapy and Responsiveness Of**

**Vaccination in blood cancEr patients**

**This project was developed in collaboration with people who have CLL and supported by the Blood cancer charities: CLLSA, BCUK and Leukaemia care.**

**What is the study and how do I get involved?**

Your medical team has identified that you are taking a Bruton Tyrosine Kinase inhibitor (e.g ibrutinib or acalabrutinib) for your Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia (CLL). The IMPROVE study will investigate immune responses to vaccination in patients taking BTKi therapy, and we would like to invite you to take part. Before you make your decision, please read this information carefully. Discuss it with your doctors, friends and relatives if you wish. Please take time to decide whether or not you want to take part.

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**Why are we doing this project?**

People with CLL have poorer responses to COVID-19 vaccines than people in the general population. For those on BTKi inhibitor drugs, it is a double whammy as the drugs make it even more unlikely that they will respond to COVID-19 vaccination. As COVID-19 is here to stay, further vaccine doses are now recommended for people with CLL.

**Therefore we want to find out:**

· **If we can improve the immune response by pausing BTKi treatment for 3 weeks around the time of vaccination**

**What will the research tell us?**

· **It will tell us if pausing BTKi therapy for 3 weeks at the time of vaccination, rather than continuing BTKi therapy, leads to higher antibody levels, and if pausing treatment is well tolerated. The aim is to study COVID-19 vaccination responses but if you happen to be given the ‘flu vaccine at the same time, we will also look at responses to that vaccine too.**

**Why is this important?**

· **This study is important because improving the response to COVID-19 vaccination would help protect people with CLL and allow them to resume a more normal life.**

· **Also, the results of this study will hopefully be relevant to other recommended vaccinations for CLL patients, including the ‘flu and pneumococcal vaccines**

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**If I decide to take part, what will I be asked to do?**

· **First visit**

If you decide to take part in IMPROVE, we will ask you to attend your local hospital and provide your consent using a computer based system. Then we will record your height and weight and take a 50ml (the equivalent of 8 teaspoonfuls) blood sample to check your current immunity to COVID-19. We will also ask about the number of previous COVID-19 vaccinations and ask you to complete a short questionnaire about your condition and your quality of life.

***Once you have joined the study, we will contact you each week by either text or a phone call reminding you to let your local IMPROVE study team know when you receive an appointment for your COVID-19 vaccination. Alternatively, you can also call your local team as soon as you have a date so that you can be put into one of the study groups.***

***Your vaccine will be given to you through a routine vaccination appointment at your GP practice or walk in centre and can be any of the COVID-19 vaccines recommended in the UK. The study team will not know the date of your vaccination until you tell us.***

***Which group will I be in?***

*Once you notify us of a date, a computer will decide by chance which of the 2 study groups you are in; neither you, or your study team will be able to choose which group you will be in. This process is called randomisation. One group will continue their BTKi as usual, and the other group will pause their BTKi treatment for 3 weeks (21 days)* (*please see the study infographic on page 7).*

*To remind you what to do with your BTKi drug, we will contact you by text or telephone one week before your vaccination date, at the time of your vaccination, and two weeks after your vaccination date. This last message will remind those pausing BTKi to re-start.*

· **Second visit**

We will ask you to come to the clinic approximately 3 weeks after your COVID-19 vaccination. We will ask you about your vaccination, and take a 50ml (the equivalent of 8 teaspoonfuls) blood sample to check your COVID-19 immunity. You will also be asked to complete the questionnaire about your CLL and how you are again. If you happened to receive the ‘flu vaccine at the same time as the COVID-19 vaccination, we will also record this and assess your ’flu immunity from the same blood sample you provide.

· **Third and final visit**

This will take place approximately 12 weeks after your COVID-19 vaccination. We will take a 50ml (the equivalent of 8 teaspoonfuls blood sample to check your current COVID-19 immunity, and ask you to complete the same questionnaire again.

**Additional visits**

We will also ask 20 participants who are cared for in London and Birmingham if they could attend for 2 additional appointments to take 50ml (the equivalent of 8 teaspoonfuls) of blood around the time of the vaccination and 1 week after. This is to help us understand more about how taking and pausing BTKi can influence any immune response found. The extra samples are being requested from participants in London and Birmingham due to the close location of the laboratories where the blood sample will be sent to.

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**Questions you might want to ask**

**Where will the study take place?**

The study will be open in several UK hospital trusts, including the hospital trust you usually attend. It will run during the Autumn 2022 vaccination programme.

**Does it matter if I've had COVID-19 infection in the past?**

It does not matter if you have had COVID-19 infection in the past and all ages, gender, races and ethnicities are welcome to take part.

**What are the benefits of taking part?**

This research will help us to understand if pausing BTKi therapy for 3 weeks can improve immune responses to vaccination and to see how well this is tolerated. We will also share with you your COVID-19 antibody levels from each of the 3 blood tests you provide (before, 3 and 12 weeks after the vaccination) and a brief explanation of what they mean.

**What are the possible risks of taking part?**

We routinely pause BTKi therapy for patients who are needing elective surgery and usually this does not cause any serious problems. You have been identified as someone with stable CLL whilst taking your BTKi; however, occasionally patients can feel unwell stopping their medication and their symptoms from CLL can return e.g sweats and fevers. If this happens, please let your local team know and notify the trials unit on telephone number 0808 175 1455. These symptoms resolve quickly after re-starting the medication. There are no known longer term risks for pausing BTKi treatment for 3 weeks. At the time of writing this leaflet the Government is considering for those that are immunocompromised potentially funding and providing something called a monoclonal antibody therapy against COVID-19. If the Government decides to do this – we would ask you to consider not having this in the 12 weeks after your vaccination.

**What if I don’t want to take part?**

Participation is voluntary, if you choose not to take part in this project, it will not have any impact on your care, or stop you taking part in any future research.

**What will happen if I don’t want to carry on with the study?**

If you decide you do not want to carry on with the study, contact the trials unit and let us know, you do not need to give us a reason. We will keep any previously collected data and samples but we will not collect anymore from you.

**What happens if I test positive for COVID-19 infection or my vaccine appointment doesn’t go ahead?**

If you test positive or your vaccine appointment date changes, please let your local team know and notify the trials unit by calling 0808 175 1455 or emailing improve@ndorms.ox.ac.uk

**Where do I have to go for blood tests?**

You will be advised at your first visit where to attend for blood tests. They will take place at your usual hospital trust. All of the blood taken will be transported to the University of Birmingham, who will undertake the majority of the analysis, but some of your sample will also be sent to either the University of Glasgow or Kings College London to complete the analysis.

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**Questions you might want to ask**

**Will any genetic tests be done?**

We are hoping to study the expression of immune response genes. These genes are coded messages inside cells that control how your body recognises and defends itself against infection. We may therefore be analysing DNA and/or RNA (types of gene messages) from the research blood samples donated.

**Will I receive any payment available for participating?**

No payment will be made for taking part in the study. Funding is available to reimburse travel costs and parking for participants for study visits at the hospital. We can also provide reimbursement for those with carer commitments. Participants who opt for a paper questionnaire rather than electronic will be sent a prepaid envelope for their return.

**What will happen to the results of this study?**

Once the study is complete the results will be published in a medical journal. You will be sent a summary of the results unless you tell us that you do not want one. You will not be identified in any of reports or publications. The final results will be used to guide clinical practice.

**Will my General Practitioner/family doctor (GP) be made aware?**

### Yes, with your permission your GP will be informed that you are taking part in the study.

### **Who is organising and funding the study?**

### The study is being led by Dr Helen Parry (Associate Professor, University of Birmingham) and carried out by the University of Birmingham (Sponsor) and Oxford Clinical Trials Research Unit (Study Office). The research is funded by the National Health Institute for Health and Care Research. The study website can be found here [www.improve.octru.ox.ac.uk](http://www.improve.octru.ox.ac.uk)

### **Who has reviewed the study?**

### The research study has been reviewed by the Yorkshire & The Humber – Leeds East independent Research Ethics Committee with a favourable opinion. This committee reviews research proposals to ensure the rights, safety, wellbeing and dignity of patients is protected.

### **How will my information be kept confidential?**

You will be given a unique study number when you agree to take part in the study. In routine communication between your hospital and the Study Office, you will be identified by this study number and your initials. A copy of your signed consent form will be held by the Study Office so that we can confirm that the correct consent procedure has been followed. This will have your name and signature on it. The research blood samples taken for research purposes and sent to research laboratories will be identified by your unique study number and your initials. NHS staff may use your name and contact details to contact you about the research study, make sure that relevant information about the study is recorded for your care, and to oversee the quality of the study.

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**Data protection information**

### **How will we use information about you?**

we will need to use information from you and from your medical records for this research project.

This information will include your initials, NHS number, name, contact details and date of birth. People will use this information to do the research or to check your records to make sure that the research is being done properly.

People who do not need to know who you are will not be able to see your name or contact details. Your data will have a code number instead. We will keep all information about you safe and secure.

One of the questionnaires that is to be used in this study is provided by a group called EORTC (European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer) – this group may approach the IMPROVE team to get a copy of your answers to their questionnaire. On request we may share your answers, but they would not know anything about you other than your answers and that the person who gave the answers was in the IMPROVE study.

Once we have finished the study, we will keep some of the data so we can check the results. We will write our reports in a way that no-one can work out that you took part in the study.

**What are your choices about how your information is used?**

\* You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have.

\*We need to manage your records in specific ways for the research to be reliable. This means that we won’t be able to let you see or change the data we hold about you.

\*If you agree to take part in this study, you will have the option to take part in future research using your data saved from this study.

**Where can you find out more about how your information is used?**

You can find out more about how we use your information

\* at [www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/](http://www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/)

\* by asking one of the research team

\* by sending an email to [dataprotection@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

**What happens if I develop COVID at any point in taking part in the study?**

You should seek medical help as you feel necessary as you would do whether you are participating in the IMPROVE study or not. However, if you contract COVID immediately prior to your vaccination and you have been put into the group that was allocated to temporarily pause your BTKi tablets, you should contact your local hospital team for guidance with regards pausing your BTKi tablets.



**What will happen to any samples I give?**

We would also like to seek your consent so that any remaining samples may be stored and used in possible future research – this is optional (please indicate if you agree to this on the consent form). The samples will be stored with a code unique to you and securely at the University of Birmingham under the University’s Human Tissue Research Licence

Some of these future studies may be carried out by researchers other than current team of Dr Helen Parry, who ran the first study, including researchers working for commercial companies. Any samples or data used will be anonymised, and you will not be identified in anyway. If you do not agree to this any remaining samples will be disposed of in accordance with the Human Tissue Authority’s codes of practice.

If you lose capacity at any point during this study, any identifiable data and samples will be kept as per the timelines of everyone in this study.

**What are your rights in relation to the data that we collect?**

You can withdraw your consent to participate in the study at any time. The processing of your data is however conducted under the legal basis of a public task, so this would not affect any data processing that would be ongoing for the study. Your rights to access, change, or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally identifiable information possible. Under the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018, you have the right to know what information has been recorded about you. If you wish to view this information or find more about how we use this information, please contact Legal Services at: University of Birmingham. Edgbaston. BIRMINGHAM. B15 2TT

To speak to the University of Birmingham’s Data Protection Officer: Email:  [dataprotection@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:%20dataprotection@contacts.bham.ac.uk) or call +44(0)121 414 3916.

**How long will my personal data be kept?**

Your personal data will be retained for no more than 12 months after the study has ended so that we can let you know the results of the study. Your anonymised data will be kept 10 years after the publication of the research after which it will be securely destroyed.

***THANK YOU for taking the time to read this information sheet***

**Contact Information**

**If you would like to take part or speak to someone about the study please contact your local hospital team or the**

**IMPROVE study team on**

**Telephone** 0808 175 1455

**Email improve@ndorms.ox.ac.uk**A picture containing graphical user interface

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