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A randomised controlled trial of chemotherapy agent “A” as a treatment for advanced gastrointestinal cancer

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Introduction

- Poor prognosis for GI cancer patients
- New chemotherapy agent “A”



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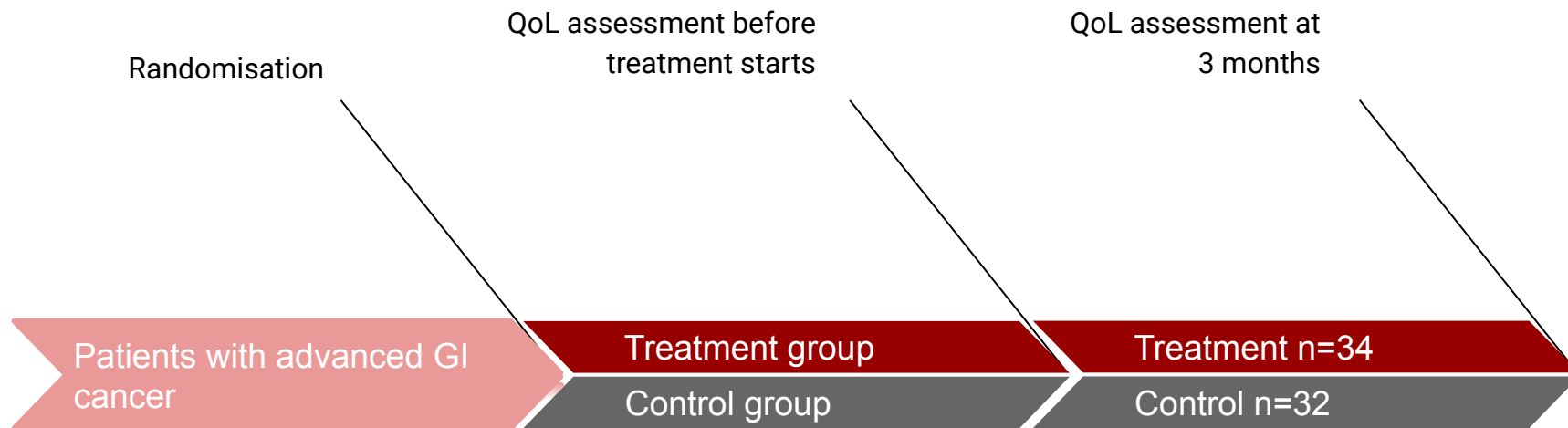
Aim

To explore the effect of chemotherapy agent “A” on survival and quality of life of advanced GI cancer patients.



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Methods - Study Design





Methods - EORTC Quality of life questionnaire

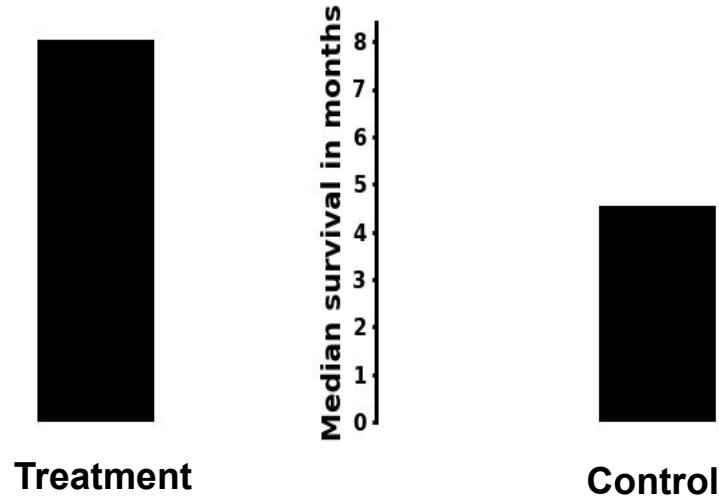
Global health status	Functional scales	Symptoms scales
Global health score	Physical	Fatigue
	Role	Pain
	Cognitive	Nausea
	Emotional	Dyspnoea
	Social	Appetite loss
		Insomnia
		Constipation
		Diarrhoea

All scales are scored 0-100 points



Results

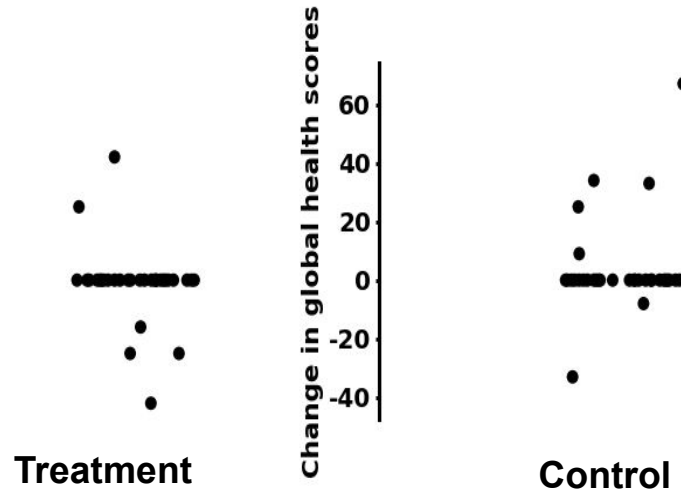
- Chemotherapy agent “A” prolonged life span of patients with advanced GI cancer; median 8 vs. 4.5 months, $p < 0.01$





Results

- There was no significant difference in the change of quality of life as measured in global health scores ($p=0.139$)





Results

- The treatment group had slightly higher scores for **diarrhoea, pain, appetite loss** and **nausea** than the control group but these were not significant.

Symptom Scales	p-value	r
Fatigue	0,051	-0,247
Nausea	0,858	0,021
Pain	0,202	0,140
Dyspnoea	0,182	-0,139
Insomnia	0,537	-0,057
Appetite loss	0,814	0,025
Constipation	0,714	-0,029
Diarrhoea	0,320	0,104



Discussion

- Chemotherapy agent “A” has the potential of prolonging the lives of GI cancer patients.
- The quality of life following treatment was not significantly affected.
- Limitations in terms of small sample size.
- Further research using larger sample sizes is needed in order to make inferences regarding QoL following treatment.