

Patients’ perspectives of clinical trials at the Royal Marsden

Moorcraft SY¹, Marriott C¹, Peckitt C¹, Bottero D¹, Cunningham D¹ and Rao S¹
¹ The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, London and Surrey, UK.

INTRODUCTION

- Recruitment to clinical trials can be challenging and slower than anticipated.
- Understanding patients’ (pts) attitudes towards research and the factors which influence their decision regarding clinical trial participation may lead to improved trial recruitment strategies.

METHODS

- Pts approached about participation in any clinical trial in the Gastrointestinal and Lymphoma Unit at the Royal Marsden (RM) between August 2013 – July 2014 were included in this prospective pt survey.
- Primary endpoint: the proportion of patients who agreed to participate in one or more clinical trials.
- Pts received a questionnaire when they consented or declined a trial (one questionnaire per trial).
- The questionnaire included multiple choice, Likert and free text questions on cancer research and reasons for trial participation.
- Information on pt demographics was collected from pt records.

RESULTS

Table 1: Patient demographics (n = 276)

Characteristic	
Age	Median 64 years (19 – 85)
Gender	68% male 32% female
Ethnicity	86% white, 8% Asian, 3% black
Occupation/social class	Retired: 40% Upper middle/middle: 20% Skilled working: 12% Working: 17%
Type of cancer	Colorectal: 43% Oesophagogastric: 36% Pancreaticobiliary: 11% Lymphoma: 10%
Treatment aim	Curative: 35% Palliative: 65%
Performance status	0: 41% 1: 50% 2: 8% 3: 1%
No. of previous lines of treatment	0: 48% 1: 32% 2: 14% 3+: 6%
Time to travel to RM*	< 1 hour: 71% 1-2 hours: 22% 2+ hours: 5% unknown: 2%

* Only pts who completed the questionnaire

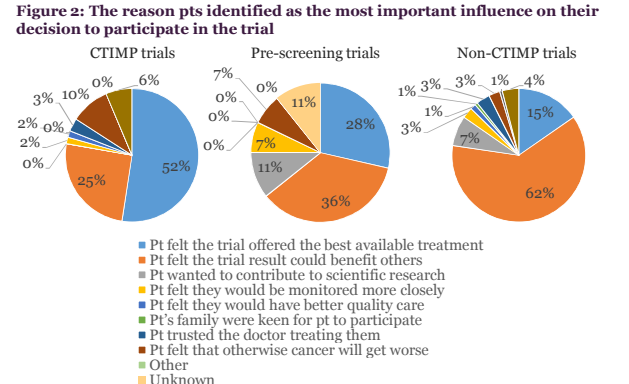
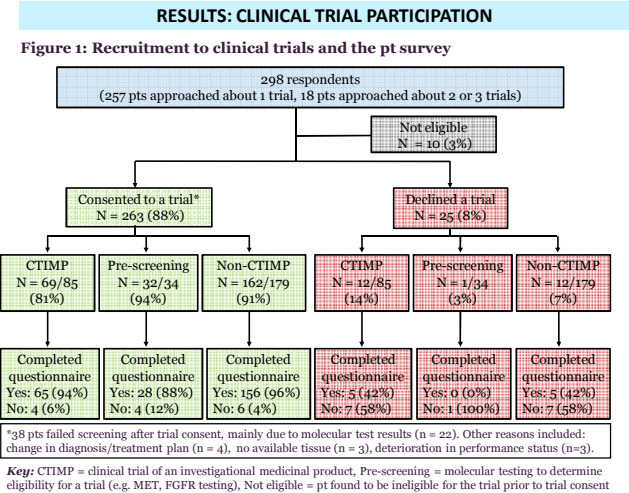


Table 2: Factors which influenced pts’ decision to participate in a clinical trial

Reason	CTIMP n = 63	Pre-screening n = 28	Non-CTIMP n = 150	All n=241
Pt felt the trial offered the best available treatment	78%	57%	39%	51%
Pt felt the trial result could benefit others	84%	86%	96%	92%
Pt wanted to contribute to scientific research	59%	57%	74%	68%
Pt felt they would be monitored more closely	44%	32%	28%	33%
Pt felt they would have better quality care	32%	18%	16%	20%
Pt's family were keen for pt to participate	38%	29%	13%	22%
Pt trusted the doctor treating them	60%	36%	49%	50%
Pt felt that otherwise cancer will get worse	27%	11%	9%	14%

Note: Pts were asked to indicate all the factors which influenced their decision to participate

Reasons why pts declined a clinical trial:

- Did not wish to have the study drug, additional procedures or any further treatment.
- Did not feel well enough or felt too anxious/overwhelmed by cancer diagnosis.
- Did not wish to have placebo or thought the standard treatment was more effective.

RESULTS: PATIENTS’ VIEWS ON CANCER RESEARCH

96% of pts who consented to a trial were happy to have been approached about participating in cancer research.

99% of pts believe cancer research will help doctors better understand and treat cancer.

Trial information:

- 90% of pts rated the verbal information they received about the trial as excellent/good.
- 90% of pts stated the pt information sheet was easy to understand.

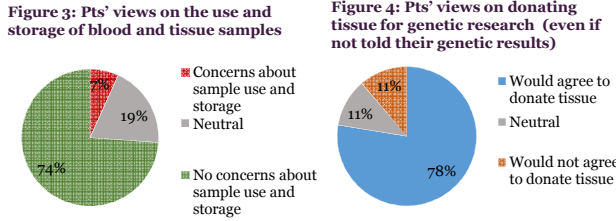


Figure 5: Pts’ response to the question “Would you participate in a trial that required a repeat biopsy?”

■ Yes
■ Maybe
■ No
■ Unknown

Table 3: Logistic regression analysis of factors affecting pts’ views on research biopsies

Would enter trial with repeat biopsy	Yes (n=78)	No (n=48)	p-value*
Age: < 65yrs ≥ 65yrs	37 (56.9) 41 (67.2)	28 (43.1) 20 (32.8)	0.236
Performance Status: 0 1 2	30 (66.7) 36 (59.0) 7 (70.0)	15 (33.3) 25 (41.0) 3 (30.0)	0.423 0.839
Number of previous lines of treatment: 0 1 2+	24 (47.1) 31 (67.4) 22 (78.6)	27 (52.9) 15 (32.6) 6 (21.4)	0.045 0.009
Type of treatment: Curative Palliative	18 (46.2) 60 (69.0)	21 (53.9) 27 (31.0)	0.015
CTIMP trial: No Yes Pre-screening	44 (60.3) 19 (52.8) 15 (88.2)	29 (39.7) 17 (47.2) 2 (11.8)	0.457 0.043

* P-values compare the yes/no proportion to that for the top line in each group

Proportion of pts who would have been happy to consent to the trial on the day of receiving the information sheet:

- CTIMP trials: 54%
- Pre-screening trials: 79%
- Non-CTIMP trials: 66%

CONCLUSIONS

- The majority of pts approached consented to one or more clinical trials and many pts wish to help others or contribute to research.
- A high proportion of pts were willing to donate tissue for research and consider trials involving repeat biopsies.
- Available clinical trials should be discussed with pts.

Acknowledgements: NIHR Biomedical Research Centre at the Royal Marsden Hospital & Institute of Cancer Research

Contact: sheela.rao@rmh.nhs.uk
singyu.moorcraft@rmh.nhs.uk

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