

PEXIVAS Newsletter

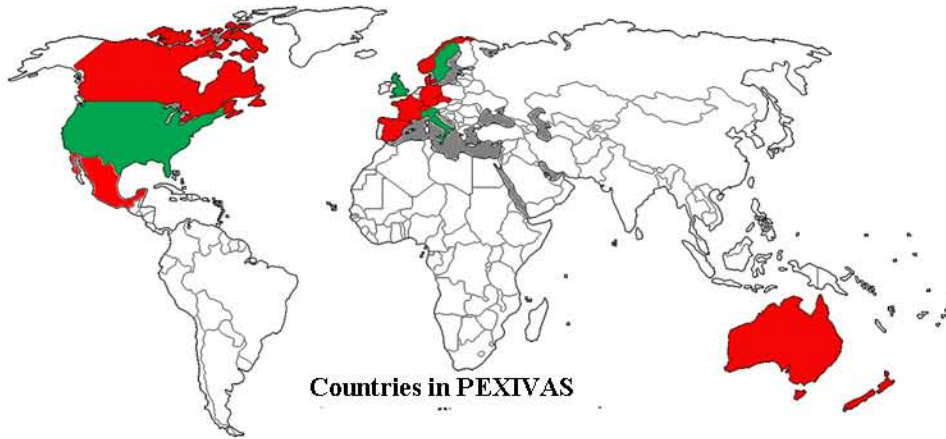
Regulatory and Ethical Approval Obtained

Cambridge, Boston, Royal Free Hospital, Brescia, and Sweden have received regulatory and ethical approval for PEXIVAS and several sites are well into their submission. Congratulations to these teams for clearing this first hurdle! Of particular note, several committees have approved the enrollment of pediatric patients and a deferred consent process (e.g. for ventilated patients). Hopefully these early suc-

cesses will set a strong precedent for ethical committees around the world. PEXIVAS seeks to enroll patients from up to 81 centres in 14 countries (see below). As more centres become ready to enroll, the map should get more and more green! If you are applying for ethical or regulatory approvals, you may require copies of other centres' approvals. The trial management office can supply these.

Electronic CRFs

The case report forms (CRFs) for recording patient's data on are finalized and being converted to electronic format by the Birmingham Clinical Trials Unit. The BCTU is also busy preparing the randomization software. Until this is ready, randomization will initially be performed by telephone 9 am- 5 pm GMT and paper CRFs will be used. As soon as these are complete, approved sites can begin enrolling! www.bctu.bham.ac.uk/pexivas



Countries in PEXIVAS

New Funding Sources Added

Both Australia/New Zealand and Canada were successful in obtaining national grants to support PEXIVAS in the last 6 months. Congratulations to Principal Investigators, Chen Au Peh and Bill Clark on their successes in these competitive grants. Peter Merkel has also negotiated for 1000 plasma exchange disposables kits with Caridian BCT. These kits will

be available as reimbursement to sites requiring them and using Caridian plasma exchange machines (Spectra or Optia). We continue to seek further funding opportunities, local trial support and for substudies. If you are planning to apply for a grant, be sure to let the coordinating office know—we may be able to assist you!



Canadian Institutes of Health Research / Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada



Special points of interest:

- UK and Boston receive ethical and regulatory approval!
- Fast-track European Clinical Trial Authorization approved!
- Australian NHMRC national grant obtained!
- Canadian CIHR national grant obtained!
- Electronic Case Report Forms Posted on Birmingham Clinical Trials Unit website

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Parma

Site of the Next PEXIVAS Investigator's Meeting



Upcoming Meetings—Mark Your Calendars

The next PEXIVAS Investigator's Meeting will be held in beautiful Parma, Italy on June 14th, 2010. The investigator's meeting will precede a EUVAS meeting on the 15th and the EULAR meeting in Rome. Many thanks to Augusto Vaglio for hosting us. At the investigators' meeting we will plan to review the protocol and electronic case report forms as well as progress to date.

PEXIVAS will pay for accommodation and meals, please contact Elisa Luzi (sepriva@unipr.it) with your requirements. Further meetings will be:

ASN in Denver, USA, November, 2010;

ERA-EDTA, 23-26 June 2011 in Prague, Czech Republic;

15th ANCA Workshop in Chapel Hill, USA, 15-18 May 2011.

The RENHIS group will centrally review renal biopsy specimens obtained in PEXIVAS

Renal Histology

PEXIVAS provides an excellent opportunity to study renal pathology in patients with AAV from around the globe.

The RENHIS group will centrally evaluate renal biopsies according to a standardized protocol.

Available specimens will also be assessed for novel markers of prognosis and mechanisms of disease.

The PEXIVAS consent process asks for consent to send available renal histology samples to Leiden, The Netherlands for

review. Please consider this on all patients that have a renal biopsy and are enrolled in PEXIVAS.

For further information, please contact:

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Ancillary Studies

Two specific substudies were proposed and approved in conjunction with PEXIVAS and now seek funding.

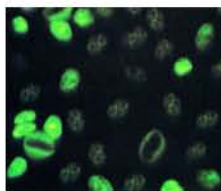
Prof. Dr. Marion Haubitz of Hannover will lead a study of the elimination of pathogenic factors by plasma exchange. Planned analytes include osteopontin, angiopoietin-2, ADMA, thrombospondin, cyto-

kines, and proteases. Please contact Prof. Dr. Haubitz (Haubitz.Marion@mh-hannover.de) if you would like more details or are interested in this project.

Dr. Janak DeZoysa and Dr. Nuala Helsby will lead a study genotyping CYP2C19 and CYP2B6 to determine their role in cyclophosphamide phar-

macokinetics.

Ancillary studies, whether clinical or laboratory based, that utilize PEXIVAS patients and clinical data should be formally proposed to the PEXIVAS Trial Management Committee. Using this process, we will be able to ensure we prioritize projects and avoid over-committing resources.



Two ancillary studies proposed

USA FDA Requirements

PEXIVAS is supported in part by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) through a grant to Boston University/Vasculitis Clinical Research Consortium. Investigators are reminded that all study sites in PEXIVAS must comply with several regulatory requirements of the FDA before any enrollment can begin at that site. These requirements can not be waived for any site and must be met continuously during the trial. The FDA requirements are:

- Approval by appropriate Institutional Review Boards/ Ethics Committees** (national and/or local).
- Each participating institution must have an active **Federal Wide Assurance (FWA) number**. This is an approval obtained from the US requirement. Most sites already have an active FWA number. The BU/VCRC PEXIVAS Coordinating Office has been assisting sites to obtain their FWA number and sites still needed this approval have been notified.
- Proof of certification that key personnel at each sites have completed a course or other training in Good Clinical Practice/Human Subject Protection** and that such certification is up-to-date. The BU/VCRC PEXIVAS Coordinating Office has received copies of certification from most lead investigators. *Please contact Carol McAlear (caking@bu.edu) for assistance or clarification about any of these requirements.*

PEXIVAS is slated to run in three continents. Below is a listing of sites planning to participate.

EUROPE		NORTH AMERICA	AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND
Cambridge, UK <i>(International Lead Center)</i>	Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC <i>(Lead National Center)</i>	Boston, USA <i>(Lead National Center)</i>	Adelaide (Royal Adelaide), AUS <i>(Lead National Center)</i>
Aberdeen, UK	Copenhagen (Rigshospitalet) DENMARK <i>(Lead National Center)</i>	Baltimore, USA	Brisbane (Princess Alexandra's), AUS <i>(Coordinating Center)</i>
Birmingham, UK <i>(Overall Coordinating Centre)</i>	Copenhagen (Herlev), DENMARK	Cleveland, USA	Adelaide (Women's & Children's), AUS
Brighton, UK	Paris (Hôpital Cochin), FRANCE	Los Angeles, USA	Austin Health, AUS
Bristol, UK	Paris (Necker Hopital), FRANCE	New York, USA	Bedford Park, AUS,
Cardiff, UK	Hannover, GERMANY <i>(Lead National Center)</i>	North Carolina, USA	Brisbane (Women's & Children's), AUS
Coventry, UK	Bad-Bramstedt, GERMANY	Pittsburg, USA	Cairns, AUS
Edinburgh, UK	Dresden, GERMANY	Rochester, USA	Canberra, AUS
Liverpool, UK	Manheim/ Heidelberg, GERMANY	Salt Lake City, USA	Freemantal, AUS
London (Hammersmith), UK	Offenbach/Main, GERMANY	Hamilton, CANADA <i>(Lead National Center)</i>	Hobart, AUS
London (Royal Free), UK	Wurzburg, GERMANY	London, CANADA	Liverpool, AUS
London (St. George's), UK	Brescia, ITALY	Calgary, CANADA	Melbourne (Alfred), AUS
Manchester, UK	Milano, ITALY	Edmonton, CANADA	Melbourne (Royal Melbourne), AUS
Oxford, UK	Parma, ITALY	Toronto (St. Michael's), CANADA	Melbourne (St. Vincent's), AUS
Portsmouth, UK	Maastricht, THE NETHERLANDS	Toronto (UHN), CANADA	Monash, AUS
Preston, UK	Trondheim, NORWAY	Vancouver, CANADA	Nambour, AUS
Reading, UK	Barcelona (Fundacio Puigvert), SPAIN		New Lambton, AUS
	Barcelona (University Hospital) SPAIN	LATIN AMERICA	Perth (Royal Perth), AUS
	Zurich, SWITZERLAND	Mexico City, Mexico	Perth (Gairdner), AUS
	Stockholm (Karolinska), SWEDEN <i>(Lead National Center)</i>		Randwick, AUS
	Lund, SWEDEN		Southport, AUS
	Malmö, SWEDEN		Sydney, AUS
			Westmead, AUS
			Christchurch, NZ
			Dunedin, NZ
			Middlemore, NZ
			Waitemata, NZ

The People That Make PEXIVAS Happen...

PEXIVAS has a unique coordinating and administrative structure that perhaps fits its unique place as the largest, most internationally represented trial to date.

In Cambridge, where PEXIVAS was “born”, Dr. Alina Casian joins David Jayne at Addenbrooke’s Hospital. Alina is currently doing much of the clinical coordination of the trial while working on a research degree in vasculitis.

We anticipate Alina will soon be joined by a coordinator.

The Birmingham Clinical Trials Unit (BCTU) manages the data for PEXIVAS with Liz Brettell coordinating the trial there. Liz, who has 10 years experience coordinating major trials, just returned to us from recent travels. Liz is backed by Natalie Ives and Andrew Howman for statistical support, and Nick Hilken for IT support. PEXIVAS is

very fortunate to benefit from this experienced trial team.

Across one ocean, Carol McAlear works with Peter Merkel to handle overall coordination of US sites, and FDA matters. Carol also brings a wealth of experience from her long time involvement with the Vasculitis Clinics Research Consortium and vasculitis trials in the US.

Across another ocean, work-

ing with Chen Au Peh and Carmel Hawley in Australia is the Australasian Kidney Trials Network (AKTN) team. Alicia Smith and Donna Reidlinger are working to coordinate the PEXIVAS sites in Australia and New Zealand from the AKTN offices in Brisbane.

Key Contact Details

Europe

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Websites Related to PEXIVAS

EUVAS: www.vasculitis.org
 VCRC: rarediseasesnetwork.epi.usf.edu/vcrc/
 BCTU: http://www.bctu.bham.ac.uk/pexivas
 AKTN: www.uq.edu.au/aktn/
 Vasculitis Foundation: www.vasculitisfoundation.org

PEXIVAS Trial Office
 Addenbrooke’s Hospital
 Cambridge, UK



Watch for our next newsletter in six months time!

If you have a tip or strategy related to the trial that other investigators might benefit from, please share it with us.