Participant Information Sheet

***M**ethotrexate **a**nd **P**rednisolone **s**tudy in Erythema Nodosum Leprosum*
MaPs

Introduction

We would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Joining the study is entirely up to you. Before you decide, you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve. One member of our team will go through this information sheet with you, and answer any questions you may have. Ask questions if anything you read is not clear or you would like more information. Please feel free to talk to others about the study if you wish. Take time to decide whether or not to take part.

What is the purpose of the study?

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) alongside leprosy specialists from Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia and Nepal are conducting research in Erythema Nodosum Leprosum (ENL), which is a severe complication of leprosy. The current treatment of ENL is based on prednisolone, a corticosteroid, which has adverse effects like high blood pressure, weight gain, infections, and diabetes if used for a long time. This is why it is important to find an effective alternative treatment.

Why have I been asked to take part?

You have been invited because you were diagnosed with ENL (also known as Type II reaction).

Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide to take part or no. If you don't want to take part, that's ok. Your doctor will still care for you and your decision will not affect the quality of care you receive.

We will discuss the study together and give you a copy of this information sheet. If you agree to take part, we will then ask you to sign a consent form.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you are willing to take part in this study, we will first ask you to sign a consent form which is your indication that you understand the study and agree to take part.
Then you will be evaluated, do an interview and clinical examination with blood tests that include full blood count, hepatitis B and C, HIV test, liver and kidney functions. We will do a urine pregnancy test for all women of child bearing potential too. A score of the severity of ENL will be performed at this point.
If you meet the study's criteria, and you wish to participate, you will be treated with either prednisolone alone, the normal treatment, or prednisolone plus methotrexate, the treatment we are testing. The treatment will be chosen by chance by a computer. It is really important that the two groups for this study have a similar mix of patients in them. Having a similar mix means that we know that if one group of patients does better than the other, it is very likely to be because of the treatment and not because there are differences in the types of patients in each group. You will have an equal chance of receiving either prednisolone alone or prednisolone with methotrexate. You won't know which treatment are you receiving and your research team will also not know this. You will be treated properly for ENL.
It is important that you realise that treatment is not always effective and the symptoms can get worse.
If you agree to take part of this study, we will ask you to complete two questionnaires and you will be seen by a member of the research team for the next 60 weeks. The follow up will be similar to a regular ENL treatment, we will

ask you to answer the questionnaire again at week 24, 48 and 60. We will also ask you to do blood tests at the beginning of the study and then every week on the first 2 weeks, then every 2 weeks until 3 months, and then monthly until the end of the study. Normally people with ENL are seen every month. Most participants will have only two extra appointments for the purpose of the study.

What will I have to do?

You will be expected to take the medication as directed by your doctors and they will advise you on whether you can continue to take other medication. An important part of this study is the information we gain from the questions we will ask you, examination and laboratory tests. It is important you answer all the questions and attend to the appointments, so that we have a complete set of data for you.

What are the possible risks and disadvantages?

*The current treatment with prednisolone alone already increase the risk of infections and complications like diabetes, high blood pressure and infections, among others. The treatment that we are testing is with an additional **WEEKLY** medication called methotrexate, which has been used for many years to treat conditions, including arthritis and certain types of skin diseases such as psoriasis. Side effects do occur and they are usually reversible when treatment is stopped. Normally, this drug is well tolerated. The most common side effects are: nausea, indigestion and loss of appetite. Other less common side effects are: tiredness, headache, inflammation of the lung, diarrhoea, mouth ulcers and inflammation of the liver. Methotrexate also can affect the blood. MTX cannot be given to pregnant women, if you are pregnant or wish to become pregnant in the next 18 months, you cannot participate in this study. Men should use effective contraception during the study and 6 months after the study completion.*

You should tell the research team about the following symptoms

- *Fever (temperature above 38^0 C), chills and sore throat.*
- *Skin rash*
- *Yellowing of the skin or the white part of the eyes*
- *Bleeding gums, unexpected bruising or bleeding that doesn't stop as quickly as normal*
- *Black "tarry" stools*
- *Chest pain, difficulty breathing or a dry cough that doesn't go away*
- *Severe and continuing diarrhoea, vomiting or stomach pains*
- *Swelling and soreness or ulcers of the vagina*

There may sometimes be side effects that are not listed above. If you notice anything unusual and are concerned then should contact your study team.

What are the possible benefits?

We cannot promise the study will help you but the information we get from the study will help our knowledge and understanding of this research area. ENL is a severe complication of leprosy and all the knowledge we gain in this study will help other patients like you.

What if something goes wrong?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions **(INSERT LOCAL PI INFORMATION)** *If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this by contacting <if LSHTM is the sponsor: Patricia Henley at rgio@lshtm.ac.uk or +44 (0) 20 7927 2626>*

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine holds insurance policies which apply to this study. If you experience harm or injury as a result of taking part in this study, you may be eligible to claim compensation.

Can I change my mind about taking part?
Yes. You can withdraw from the study at any time. You just need to tell your doctor that you don't want to be in the study anymore. Your doctor will still care for you.

You can withdraw from treatment but keep in contact with us to let us know your progress. Information collected may still be used. Any stored blood or tissue samples that can still be identified as yours will be destroyed if you wish, or will continue to be stored for further research.

What will happen to information collected about me?
All information collected about you will be kept private. Only the study staff and authorities who check that the study is being carried out properly will be allowed to look at information about you. Data may be sent to other study staff in London **(insert local institution name)** *but this will be anonymised. This means that any information about you which leaves the hospital/surgery/clinic, will have your name and address removed so that you cannot be recognised.*

Your doctor will send some details about you to the study team in London, who will store it securely. Your personal details will be kept in a different safe place to the other study information and will be, destroyed within 10 years of the end of the study, stored securely in London.

At the end of the project, the study data will be archived at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The data will be made available to other researchers worldwide for research and to improve medical knowledge and patient care. Your personal information will not be included and there is no way that you can be identified.

What will happen to the results of this study?
The study results will be published in a medical journal so that other doctors can learn from them. Your personal information will not be included in the study report and there is no way that you can be identified from it.

Who is organising and funding this study?
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is the sponsor for the research and they have full responsibility for the project including the collection, storage and analysis of your data.

Who has checked this study?
All research involving human participants is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Research Ethics Committee (<ref:>). The **(insert Local Institution name)** *Ethics Committee has also reviewed the study and have agreed that it is okay for us to ask people to take part.*

What happens when the research study stops?
As a patient with ENL you will continue to be reviewed in the Leprosy clinic as needed, so your follow up will be as normal.

What will happen to the samples I give?

We may use some of the samples collected for future studies. These will be anonymised when stored, and all future research using these samples will be reviewed by an independent ethics committee. Samples may be shipped and stored outside of xxx. If you agree to allow your sample to be used in future studies, an extra amount of blood will be collected in 9 occasions alongside the regular blood tests, 25 to 50mL (equivalent of 2 to 3 tablespoons).

Further information and contact details

Thank you for taking time to read this information leaflet. If you think you will take part in the study please read and sign the consent form.