

# The PREDMETH trial: Effectiveness of methotrexate versus prednisone as first-line therapy for pulmonary sarcoidosis - A randomized controlled trial

Published: 15-11-2019

Last updated: 10-01-2025

This study has been transitioned to CTIS with ID 2024-514055-15-00 check the CTIS register for the current data. Primary: • Investigate the effectiveness and tolerability of methotrexate as first-line therapy in patients with pulmonary sarcoidosis...

<b>Ethical review</b>	Approved WMO
<b>Status</b>	Recruiting
<b>Health condition type</b>	Respiratory disorders NEC
<b>Study type</b>	Interventional

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON49109

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

PREDMETH trial

### Condition

- Respiratory disorders NEC

### Synonym

Besnier-Boeck-Schaumann disease of the lung, Pulmonary sarcoidosis

### Research involving

Human

### Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** Longfonds

## Intervention

**Keyword:** lung, methotrexate, prednisone, sarcoidosis

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

The change in hospital-measured Forced Vital Capacity (FVC) between baseline and 24 weeks...

### Secondary outcome

Other pulmonary function parameters, biomarkers, adverse events, quality of life.

## Study description

### Background summary

Sarcoidosis is a multisystem, granulomatous disorder, most commonly affecting the lungs. Symptom burden is high, and quality of life (QoL) and social participation are negatively affected. In patients with pulmonary sarcoidosis, treatment is recommended in case of significant symptoms and/or impaired or deteriorating lung function. Evidence-based treatment recommendations are limited, outdated and largely based on expert opinion.

Prednisone is currently the first-choice therapy in pulmonary sarcoidosis and leads to short-term improvement of lung function. Unfortunately, prednisone has major side-effects and is associated with impaired QoL. Methotrexate is presently considered second-line therapy, and appears to have fewer side-effects. We hypothesize that first-line treatment with methotrexate is as effective as prednisone, with fewer side-effects and better QoL

### Study objective

This study has been transitioned to CTIS with ID 2024-514055-15-00 check the CTIS register for the current data.

Primary:

- Investigate the effectiveness and tolerability of methotrexate as first-line

therapy in patients with pulmonary sarcoidosis compared with prednisone.

Secondary:

- Examine (immunological) biomarkers of disease progression and chronicity.
- Assess whether response to therapy can be predicted in individual patients.
- Gain more insights into the underlying disease mechanism and potential new targets

## **Study design**

Phase 4, prospective, randomized, open-label, multi-center, single country, non-inferiority trial.

Randomization 1:1 to oral prednisone (start 40 mg daily, to be tapered to 10 mg daily) or oral methotrexate (15 mg weekly to be increased to 25 mg weekly) for 24 weeks. Thereafter continuation of trial for 18 months on regular treatment (investigator decision). 138 randomized patients.

## **Intervention**

Treatment with prednisone or methotrexate.

## **Study burden and risks**

Risk: Adverse effects of study treatment.

Burden:

Physical examination: every visit (=6 times).

Blood tests: every visit 80 mL per occasion

Pulmonary function: every visit.

FVC measurement at home: weekly, 24 weeks.

Questionnaires: King's Sarcoidosis Questionnaire, General Rating of Change, EQ-5D-5L, Patient Experience and Satisfaction with Medication Questionnaire, VAS of Dyspnea, Cough, Fatigue, Complaints, MRC Dyspnea Scale, Fatigue Assessment Scale: every visit.

VAS at home: symptoms and side effects: weekly, 24 weeks.

## **Contacts**

### **Public**

Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

's-Gravendijkwal 230

Rotterdam 3015 GE

NL

### **Scientific**

Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

's-Gravendijkwal 230  
Rotterdam 3015 GE  
NL

## Trial sites

### Listed location countries

Netherlands

## Eligibility criteria

### Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

### Inclusion criteria

- Diagnosis of sarcoidosis according to the ATS/ERS/WASOG criteria (7), in case of absent histology a diagnosis of sarcoidosis can also be established in a multidisciplinary team meeting in a sarcoidosis expert center based on a highly suggestive clinical and radiological picture (18, 19)
- Age  $\geq 18$  years
- A pulmonary indication for treatment and parenchymal involvement on X-ray or CT-scan conducted within three months before inclusion (determined by the treating physician and conform current guidelines).
- A forced vital capacity (FVC) of  $\leq 90\%$  of predicted, or a diffusion capacity of the lung for carbon monoxide (DLCO)  $\leq 70\%$  of predicted, or  $\geq 5\%$  FVC decline/ $\geq 10\%$  DLCO decline in the past year. For pulmonary functions tests GLI reference values are used.

### Exclusion criteria

- Any condition or circumstance that, in the opinion of the investigator, may make a subject unlikely or unable to complete the study or comply with study procedures.
- Previous immunosuppressive treatment for sarcoidosis
- Use of systemic immunosuppressive therapy within the preceding three months for another disease than sarcoidosis
- Pregnant, breastfeeding, or planning to become pregnant or breastfeed during the study treatment or within 90 days after the last dose in the randomized study phase.
- For males; planning to pro-create during the study or within 90 days after the last dose of the

randomized study phase. - Primary systemic treatment indication being an extra pulmonary location of sarcoidosis (e.g. cardiac or neurological) -  
Contra-indication for methotrexate or corticosteroids: • severely impaired renal function (creatinine clearance <30 ml/min) • impaired hepatic function (serum bilirubin-value >5 mg/dl or 85,5 micromole/l) • bone marrow insufficiency with severe leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, or anaemia • severe acute or chronic infections, such as tuberculosis, HIV, parasitic infections or other immunodeficiency syndromes • mouth, stomach or duodenal ulcers

## Study design

### Design

Study phase:	4
Study type:	Interventional
Intervention model:	Parallel
Allocation:	Randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Active
Primary purpose:	Treatment

### Recruitment

NL	
Recruitment status:	Recruiting
Start date (anticipated):	17-07-2020
Enrollment:	138
Type:	Actual

### Medical products/devices used

Product type:	Medicine
Brand name:	Methotrexate
Generic name:	Methotrexate
Registration:	Yes - NL outside intended use
Product type:	Medicine
Brand name:	Prednisone

Generic name: Prednisone  
Registration: Yes - NL intended use

## Ethics review

Approved WMO  
Date: 15-11-2019  
Application type: First submission  
Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam (Rotterdam)

Approved WMO  
Date: 26-02-2020  
Application type: First submission  
Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam (Rotterdam)

Approved WMO  
Date: 07-12-2020  
Application type: Amendment  
Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam (Rotterdam)

Approved WMO  
Date: 27-01-2021  
Application type: Amendment  
Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam (Rotterdam)

Approved WMO  
Date: 01-10-2024  
Application type: Amendment  
Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam (Rotterdam)

Approved WMO  
Date: 10-10-2024  
Application type: Amendment  
Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam (Rotterdam)

## Study registrations

### Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

### Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

### In other registers

Register	ID
EU-CTR	CTIS2024-514055-15-00
EudraCT	EUCTR2019-004148-31-NL
CCMO	NL71782.078.19