# DESCARTES trial: De-ESCAlating RadioTherapy in patients with pathologic complete rESponse to neoadjuvant systemic therapy.

Published: 27-01-2022 Last updated: 30-01-2025

Primary aim: to assess whether local recurrence is acceptable when radiotherapy is omitted after breast conserving surgery in patients treated with NAC who achieve a pathologic complete response. Secondary aim: to assess quality of life and cancer...

**Ethical review** Approved WMO **Status** Recruiting

**Health condition type** Breast neoplasms malignant and unspecified (incl nipple)

**Study type** Observational non invasive

## **Summary**

#### ID

NL-OMON56100

#### **Source**

ToetsingOnline

#### **Brief title**

**DESCARTES** trial

#### **Condition**

- Breast neoplasms malignant and unspecified (incl nipple)
- Breast therapeutic procedures

#### **Synonym**

Breast cancer

#### Research involving

Human

### **Sponsors and support**

**Primary sponsor:** Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Ziekenhuis

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Antoni van Leeuwenhoek

#### Intervention

**Keyword:** Breast cancer, De-escaltion of local therapy, Neoadjuvant systemic therapy, Pathologic complete response

#### **Outcome measures**

#### **Primary outcome**

The primary endpoint is the local recurrence rate (LRR) at 5 years.

#### **Secondary outcome**

Secondary determinants are local non-salvageable recurrence free survival,

quality of life, regional recurrence rate, distant recurrence free survival,

disease-specific survival and overall survival.

# **Study description**

#### **Background summary**

Over 60% of the women who are diagnosed with breast cancer in the Netherlands are treated with systemic treatment, which may be administered before (neoadjuvant chemotherapy, NAC) or after (adjuvant) locoregional treatment. Depending on the subtype, 10-75% of patients will have a pathologic complete response (pCR) after NST. In this patient group, risk of local recurrence is extremely low. The administration of adjuvant radiotherapy in these patients is not expected to contribute significantly to overall survival, but may cause considerable morbidity.

#### Study objective

Primary aim: to assess whether local recurrence is acceptable when radiotherapy is omitted after breast conserving surgery in patients treated with NAC who achieve a pathologic complete response.

Secondary aim: to assess quality of life and cancer worry after omitting

radiotherapy.

#### Study design

DESCARTES is a national, multicentre, non-randomized, single-arm prospective cohort study.

#### Study burden and risks

The immediate impact for participants is to be spared intensive radiotherapy and subsequent risk of side effects (such as pain, fatigue, possible lung damage). An expected 4% will develop a local recurrence within 5 years, about half of which would not have happened with standard radiotherapy. The majority of these local recurrences can however effectively be treated with salvage breast-conserving or ablative surgery and previous studies indicated that patient survival will not be affected.

### **Contacts**

#### **Public**

Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Ziekenhuis

Plesmanlaan 121 Amsterdam 1066CX NI

#### Scientific

Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Ziekenhuis

Plesmanlaan 121 Amsterdam 1066CX NL

### **Trial sites**

#### **Listed location countries**

**Netherlands** 

# **Eligibility criteria**

#### Age

Adults (18-64 years) Elderly (65 years and older)

#### Inclusion criteria

- Women, aged >= 18 years
- Invasive HR positive/Her2 negative, Her2+ (ER/PR +/-) or TN breast cancer
- Concurrent DCIS in pre-NST biopsy is allowed if there is no suspicion of extensive component i.e. absence of non-mass enhancement on pre-NST MRI (if performed) and/or absence of calcifications on pre-NST mammography
- Primary tumour (T) clinical stage cT1-2
- Unifocal disease; confirmed by pre-NST MRI, contrast-enhanced mammography or breast-specific gamma imaging
- Clinical nodal stage 0; absence of lymph node metastases should be confirmed by ultrasound or FDG-PET/CT
- Neoadjuvant systemic treatment (NST)
- Marker placed in breast tumour prior to NST
- Breast conserving surgery performed, i.e. no mastectomy
- Sentinel node biopsy performed before or after NST
- Pathologic complete response in breast and lymph nodes, i.e. no residual tumour cells or DCIS detected
- Written informed consent

#### **Exclusion criteria**

- Primary tumour (T) clinical stage cT3-4
- Pre- or post-NST diagnosis of nodal disease including isolated tumour cells
- Concurrent LCIS of any type in either pre-NST biopsy or surgical specimen
- Patients without axillary ultrasound or FDG-PET/CT pre-NST
- History of breast cancer DCIS or LCIS
- Synchronous contralateral breast cancer DCIS or LCIS
- Synchronous M1 disease
- Carrier of gene mutation associated with increased risk of breast cancer, i.e. BRCA1, BRCA2, CHEK2, TP53 or PALB-2

# Study design

### **Design**

**Study type:** Observational non invasive

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Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Uncontrolled Primary purpose: Treatment

#### Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruiting
Start date (anticipated): 07-10-2022

Enrollment: 595

Type: Actual

### **Ethics review**

Approved WMO

Date: 27-01-2022

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC NedMec

Approved WMO

Date: 30-03-2022

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC NedMec

Approved WMO

Date: 20-05-2022

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC NedMec

Approved WMO

Date: 21-06-2022

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC NedMec

Approved WMO

Date: 11-10-2022

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC NedMec

Approved WMO

Date: 05-12-2022

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC NedMec

Approved WMO

Date: 18-07-2023

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC NedMec

Approved WMO

Date: 13-12-2023

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC NedMec

Approved WMO

Date: 09-10-2024

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC NedMec

# **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

ClinicalTrials.gov NCT05416164 CCMO NL79099.031.21