NIHR | BioResource

CTL – Cutaneous Lymphoma

NIHR BioResource – Rare Diseases study project

Lead Investigator: Dr Julia Scarisbrick

V2.1 20/05/2019

Dr Julia Scarisbrick. CTL project Lead

Summary

Cutaneous lymphoma are a rare group of skin cancers. They present as painful, itchy skin lesions. The diagnosis is complex requiring clinical correlation with skin biopsies and blood tests and a diagnostic delay is typically around 3 years. Where possible they may be treated with local skin treatments such as corticosteroids, phototherapy or radiotherapy.

Skin recurrences are frequent and a cure is rarely achieved. The recurrent skin tumours cause considerable discomfort and impact on patients' quality of life. Whilst spread to lymph nodes and internal organs is rare this can occur and patients will require immunotherapies or chemotherapies. These treatments may also be used in the more aggressive skin lymphoma types. Complete responses to treatment are rare and disease often relapses on stopping treatment. There is an unmet need for better more effective treatments in cutaneous lymphoma.

Cutaneous lymphomas are broadly divided into cutaneous B-cell lymphomas (CBCL) and cutaneous T-cell lymphomas (CTCL). CBCL include follicular cell lymphoma, marginal zone lymphoma and diffuse large B-cell lymphoma. CTCL include mycosis fungoides, Sézary syndrome and large cell anaplastic lymphoma.

The exact basis for the development of cutaneous lymphoma remains unclear, there is no familial link and cutaneous lymphomas occur throughout the world at similar incidence with a male predominance (almost twice as common in males) and typically presents between 50-60 years. Although many genetic studies have been undertaken these have typically been at single centres and no common genetic pathway for disease onset or progression has been shown.

The rare nature of the cutaneous lymphoma makes larger studies challenging and the NIHR BioResource will allow researchers to collaborate better in cutaneous lymphoma. Understanding the genetic and other drivers of for cutaneous lymphoma may help improve the diagnosis of patients and prediction of the disease course allowing better management and possibly identify new therapies.

Recruitment Criteria

Inclusion of below diagnosis.
We preference patients who are only recently diagnosed and not on any treatment.

NIHR | BioResource

Inclusion

CBCL – Cutaneous B-Cell Lymphoma
5 marginal zone lymphoma
5 follicular lymphoma
5 DLBCL (diffuse large B cell lymphoma)

CTCL – Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma
20 patch MF (mycosis fungoides)
20 plaque MF
20 tumour MF
10 erythrodermic MF / Sézary