Information for participants about taking part in medical-scientific research

What is the role of immune cells in the kidney in lupus nephritis (LN)?

The role of macrophages and monocytes in (proliferative) lupus nephritis; the MAPLE study

Introduction

Dear Sir/Madam,

With this information letter, we would like to ask if you want to take part in medical-scientific research. Taking part is voluntary. You are receiving this letter because you have shown interest in taking part in scientific research, and you meet the criteria we are looking for. This letter explains what the study is about, what it means for you, and what the advantages and disadvantages are. It is a lot of information. Please read it carefully and decide whether you want to take part. If you want to take part, you can fill in the form in appendix C.

Please ask your questions

You can make your decision based on the information in this letter. We also advise you to do the following:

- Ask the researcher who gives you this information any questions you have.
- Talk with your partner, family, or friends about this study.
- Read the information at www.rijksoverheid.nl/mensenonderzoek.

1. General information

Amsterdam UMC set up this study. Below, we always call Amsterdam UMC the ‘sponsor’. Researchers – these can be doctors, researchers, and research nurses – carry out the study. The study takes place at the AMC location of Amsterdam UMC.

People who take part in medical-scientific research are often called ‘subjects’. Both patients and healthy people can be subjects. This study needs a total of 30 LN subjects, 15 SLE subjects, and 10 healthy subjects. The Medical Ethics Review Committee of Amsterdam UMC has approved this study.

2. What is the purpose of the study

The purpose of the study is to find out what role specific immune cells play in the start and continuation of the disease lupus nephritis (LN). We want to look at how many of these cells are present in the kidney before and after treatment. We also want to look at whether changes in the immune cells affect the patient’s health. Finally, we want to look for cells and proteins in blood and urine, so that lupus nephritis can be diagnosed more precisely.

3. What is the background of the study?

Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease that can affect all organs in the body. An autoimmune disease is a disease in which the immune cells – the cells that are normally responsible for defending the body against germs from outside – attack the body itself, causing damage. When damage to the kidneys is found, we call this lupus nephritis (LN). LN can cause blood or protein in the urine, high blood pressure, and eventually even kidney failure.

Not much is yet known about how SLE and LN develop, and treatment has many side effects. Also, despite long treatment, it is not always successful, and there is a chance that kidney function will get worse.

Recent research shows that macrophages, a type of immune cell, play a role in the development of lupus nephritis. It has also been shown that medicines aimed at macrophages can improve the disease.

What we do not yet know is exactly which macrophages are present in the kidney, and how this changes during treatment. We also do not know if this affects blood and urine values and the patient's health.

To treat LN better, it is important to learn more about how the disease develops and what changes during treatment. For this, it is also important to compare patients' results with results from healthy people. We hope to find this in blood and urine. The goal is to develop a test that can diagnose lupus nephritis more precisely.

4. How does the study work?

How long does the study last?
If you take part in the study, blood will be taken on 2 occasions, and you will hand in urine at the same times. These moments are about 3-6 months apart.

Step 1: are you eligible to take part?
After you have contacted us, a researcher will give you information about the study and answer any extra questions. If you are interested in taking part, you sign to take part during your visit to Amsterdam UMC.
First, we check whether you can take part in the study. The researcher will ask you a number of questions. If you have an infection, unfortunately you cannot take part.

Step 2: blood and urine tests
For the study, you need to come to the hospital on two different occasions. During this visit, the following tests will be done:

- Examination of your blood. For the study, we take 9 tubes at the first appointment and 7 tubes at the second appointment. In total, this is 67 ml the first time and 58 ml the second time. This amount does not cause problems in adults. For comparison: someone who donates blood at the blood bank gives 500 ml each time. With the blood test, we check the following:
    - General blood tests for blood cell counts, salts, and kidney function
    - The presence of specific immune cells
- Examination of your urine. You collect this at home and bring it to the appointment in the containers given to you earlier. The urine sample may also be collected during your visit to the hospital.

5. What arrangements do we make with you?

We want the study to go well. That is why we make the following arrangements with you:

- You do not take part in another medical-scientific study while taking part in this one.
- You come to every appointment.
- You hand in the urine in the containers you were given.

You contact the researcher in these situations:

- You no longer want to take part in the study.
- Your phone number, address, or e-mail address changes.

6. What side effects, harmful effects, or discomfort can you experience?

What discomfort can measurements during the study cause?
Blood draws can be painful or cause bruising. Blood will be taken from you at every visit. For the study, this will be 67 ml the first time and 58 ml the second time. This amount does not cause problems in adults. For comparison: at the blood bank, 500 ml of blood is taken each time. You do not need to fast before a blood draw.

7. What are the advantages and disadvantages of taking part in the study?

Taking part in the study can have advantages and disadvantages. We list them below. Think about this carefully, and talk about it with others.

You have no personal advantage from taking part in this study. But by taking part, you can help the researchers gain more insight into how SLE and LN develop, and how the treatment works.

Taking part in the study can have these consequences:

- Taking part in the study costs you extra time.
- You must keep to the arrangements that belong to the study.

Do you not want to take part?
You decide for yourself whether you take part in the study.

8. When does the study stop?

The researcher will let you know if new information about the study becomes known that is important for you. The researcher will then ask if you want to continue taking part.

In these situations, the study stops for you:

- All tests according to the schedule are finished.
- You want to stop the study yourself. You may do this at any time. Tell the researcher right away. You do not need to say why you are stopping.
- The researcher thinks it is better for you to stop.
- One of the following bodies decides that the study must stop:
    - the sponsor (Amsterdam UMC)
    - the government, or
    - the medical ethics committee reviewing the study.

What happens if you stop the study?
The researchers use the data and body material (blood and urine) collected up to the moment you stop. If you want, collected body material can be destroyed. Let the researcher know if you want this.

The whole study is finished once all participants are done.

9. What happens after the study

Will you get the results of the study?
About 2 years after the study ends, the researcher will let you know the main results of the study. If you do not want to know this, tell the researcher. He/she will then not tell you.

10. What do we do with your data and body material?

If you take part in the study, you also give permission to collect, use, and store your data and body material.

Which data do we store?
We store this data:

- your name
- your sex

- your address
- your date of birth
- (medical) data we collect during the study

Which body material do we store?
We collect, use, and store tubes of blood and urine.

Why do we collect, use, and store your data and body material?
We collect, use, and store your data and body material to answer the questions of this study, and to publish the results. Data and/or body material can be used by the sponsor and by companies that help the sponsor carry out the study.

How do we protect your privacy?
To protect your privacy, we give your data and body material a code. Only this code is put on all your data and body material. The key to the code is kept in a secure place in the hospital. When we process your data and body material, we always use only this code. In reports and publications about the study, no one will be able to trace this back to you.

Who can see your data?
Some people can see your name and other personal data without the code. This may be data collected specially for this study, but also data from your medical file.
These are people who check whether the researchers carry out the study properly and reliably. These people may have access to your data:

- An auditor who works for the sponsor.
- National and international regulatory authorities.

These people keep your data confidential. We ask your permission for these people to view your data. The Health and Youth Care Inspectorate (Inspectie Gezondheidszorg en Jeugd) can view your data without your permission.

How long do we store your data and body material?
We store your data for up to 25 years after the study ends, at the hospital. We also store your body material at the hospital. It is stored for up to 5 years after the study ends, so that new tests related to this study can still be done during that time. As soon as this is no longer needed, we destroy your body material.

What happens with unexpected findings?
During the study, we may accidentally find something that is not directly relevant to the study, but is relevant to your health. The researcher will then contact your GP. You will then discuss with your GP what needs to happen. The costs of this are covered by your own health insurance. With the form, you give permission to inform your GP.

Can you withdraw your permission to use your data?

You can withdraw your permission to use your data at any time. Tell the researcher if you want this. This applies to use in this study and to use in other research. Please note: if you withdraw your permission, and the researchers have already collected data for a study, they may still use this data. For your body material, the researchers will destroy it after you withdraw your permission. But if measurements have already been done with your body material, the researcher may still use those results.

Do you want to know more about your privacy?

- Do you want to know more about your rights regarding the processing of personal data? Go to www.autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl.
- Do you have questions about your rights, or a complaint about the processing of your personal data? Contact the person responsible for processing your personal data. For your study, this is:
    - Amsterdam UMC. See appendix A for contact details and website.
- If you have complaints about the processing of your personal data, we advise you to discuss this first with the research team. You can also go to the Data Protection Officer of Amsterdam UMC, or file a complaint with the Dutch Data Protection Authority (Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens).

Where can you find more information about the study?
You can find more information about the study on the following website(s): www.onderzoekmetmensen.nl and/or https://euclinicaltrials.eu. After the study, the website may show a summary of the results. You can find the study by searching for ‘MAPLE study’.

11. Will you get paid for taking part in the study?

The study medicines, extra tests, and treatment for the study cost you nothing. For taking part in this study, you will get reimbursement of your travel costs.

You may need to declare the payment for taking part in this study to the Dutch Tax Administration (Belastingdienst) as ‘income from other work’. If needed, ask the Tax Administration about this.

12. Are you insured while taking part in the study?

An insurance policy has been taken out for everyone taking part in this study. The insurance pays for damage caused by the study, but not for all damage. Appendix B has more information about the insurance and its exceptions. It also states who to contact if you have any damage to report.

13. We will inform your GP

The researcher will send your GP a letter or e-mail to let them know you are taking part in the study. This is for your own safety. In case of unclear situations or questions, we may contact your GP.

14. Do you have questions?

You can ask questions about the study to drs. S.D. Crum or dr. M. Hilhorst.

Do you have a complaint? Discuss this with the researcher or the doctor treating you. Would you rather not do this? Then go to the hospital's complaints officer. Appendix A tells you where to find them.

15. How do you give consent for the study?

You can first take time to think calmly about this study. Afterwards, tell the researcher whether you understand the information, and whether or not you want to take part. If you want to take part, fill in the consent form that comes with this information letter. You and the researcher will both get a signed copy of this consent statement.

Thank you for your time.

16. Appendices

A. Contact details for Amsterdam UMC

B. Information about the insurance

C. Consent form(s)

Appendix A: contact details for Amsterdam UMC

Drs. S.D. Crum, physician-researcher, Department of Internal Medicine – Nephrology. Meibergdreef 9 | 1105 AZ Amsterdam | The Netherlands. Tel: 020-5663195 | E-mail: s.d.crum@amsterdamumc.nl

Principal investigator (2nd point of contact):
Dr. M. Hilhorst. Internist-nephrologist and researcher, Department of Internal Medicine – Nephrology. Meibergdreef 9 | 1105 AZ Amsterdam | The Netherlands. Tel: 020-5661300 | E-mail: m.l.hilhorst@amsterdamumc.nl

Data Protection Officer:
E-mail: privacy@amsterdamumc.nl
Complaints: tel: 020 566 3355, e-mail: patientenvoorlichting@amc.nl
For more information about your rights:
https://www.amc.nl/web/sitewide/algemeneprivacyverklaring.htm

Any complaints can be addressed to:
Patient Service Zorgsupport, AMC location
E-mail: PAZO-AMC@amsterdamumc.nl

Patient Service Zorgsupport, VUmc location
E-mail: PAZO-VUmc@amsterdamumc.nl

Appendix B: information about insurance

Amsterdam UMC has taken out insurance for everyone who takes part in the study. This insurance pays for damage that you suffer because you took part in the study. This means damage that occurs during the study, or within 4 years after the end of your participation. You must report any damage to the insurer within 4 years.

Do you have damage caused by the study? Report this to the insurer:

The insurer of the study is:

Insurer name: Centramed B.A.

Address: Postbus 7374, 2701 AJ Zoetermeer

Telephone: 070 301 70 70

E-mail: info@centramed.nl

Policy number: 624.100.044

The insurance provides coverage of €650,000 per subject, with a maximum of €5,000,000 for the whole study, and €7,500,000 for damage resulting from medical-scientific research reported per insurance year.

Please note: the insurance does not cover the following damage:

- Damage caused by a risk we informed you about in this letter. This does not apply if the risk turned out to be bigger than we expected, or if the risk was very unlikely.
- Damage to your health that would also have occurred if you had not taken part in the study.
- Damage caused because you did not follow instructions or guidance, or did not follow them correctly.
- Damage to the health of your children or grandchildren (unless the study specifically concerns an existing pregnancy, birth, or embryos with the aim of achieving a pregnancy – in that case, damage to the child/children concerned is covered).
- Damage caused by a treatment method that already exists, or by research into a treatment method that already exists.

These rules are set out in the ‘Besluit verplichte verzekering bij medisch-wetenschappelijk onderzoek met mensen 2015’ (Compulsory Insurance for Medical-Scientific Research with Humans Decree 2015). This decree can be found in the Dutch government’s legal database (https://wetten.overheid.nl).

Appendix C – Subject Consent Form

For the study:

What is the role of immune cells in the kidney in lupus nephritis (LN)?

- I have read the information letter. I was also able to ask questions. My questions were answered well enough. I had enough time to decide whether to take part.
- I know that taking part is voluntary. I also know that I can decide at any time not to take part after all, or to stop. I do not have to say why I want to stop.
- I give the researcher permission to let my doctors (specialist, GP, and pharmacist) know that I am taking part in this study.
- I give the researcher permission to request information from my GP, specialist, or pharmacist about my medical history or medication.
- I give the researcher permission to inform my GP or specialist about unexpected findings from the study that are relevant to my health.
- I give the researchers permission to collect and use my data and body material. The researchers will only do this to answer the research question of this study.
- I know that some people may already view my data to check the study. These people are named in this information letter. I give these people permission to view my data for this check.

Please tick yes or no in the table below.

I give permission to possibly be asked, after this study, whether I want to take part in a follow-up study.	Yes ☐	No☐

I want to participate in this study.

My name is (subject): ……..

Signature: …… **Date** : ____ / ____ / _____

I declare that I have fully informed this subject about the study named above.

If, during the study, information becomes known that could affect the subject's consent, I will inform the subject in time.

Naam of researcher (or representative):……
Signature:…… Date: __ / __ / __

Additional information was given by:

Name:……..
Function:……
Signature:…… Date: __ / __ / __

The subject receives a full information letter, together with a signed copy of the consent form.