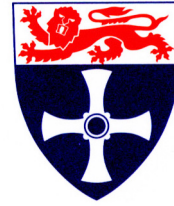


UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE



School of Clinical and Laboratory Sciences

Medical School
Framlington Place
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4HH
United Kingdom

January 2004

Dear Investigator

SHIELD (Study of Hodgkin's lymphoma In the Elderly Lymphoma Database) : A phase II study VEPEMB in patients with Hodgkin's Lymphoma aged > 60 years

The enclosed protocol relates to a broad-based assessment of therapy used in patients with Hodgkin's lymphoma over the age of 60 years. At the core of the investigation is a Phase II study of VEPEMB (Vinblastine, Cyclophosphamide (Endoxana), Etoposide, Procarbazine, Prednisolone, Mitoxantrone and Bleomycin) for patients requiring curative treatment intent, who are unable to tolerate protocols designed for younger patients.

It is understood that in the 60 – 65 year age group there are individuals who are 'biologically' younger than their age, who would take standard protocols, e.g. ABVD (Adriamycin, Bleomycin, Vinblastine, Dacarbazine (D.T.I.C.)). We are keen to assess how many such patients there are in the UK and the outcome for such patients. The Phase II study is provided as an option for patients in that age group, considered unable to tolerate such treatments but data will be collected on all patients > 60 years with Hodgkin's lymphoma.

The frailty assessments have been introduced in order to provide objective data (and to act as a guide), predominantly on those in whom 'curative intent' treatments are not utilised. If, as the treating physician, in your opinion and in the opinion of the patient, you/they feel able to proceed with the VEPEMB protocol, this is satisfactory. If they are to be excluded on the basis of frailty, an objective assessment would aid our evaluations.

We would like to discuss these and any other issues with you directly, prior to starting the patient on the protocol. Please contact me by telephone on: 44 191 222 7791 or 44 191 222 7632; email s.j.proctor@ncl.ac.uk; fax 44 191 222 5524.

Yours sincerely

Stephen J Proctor
Professor of Haematological Medicine