DEEP - DEferiprone Evaluation in Paediatrics

mission
Iron Buster
Now is your chance to ask Dr. Ironless

**WHAT'S IN THE BLOOD?**

Goodness me! Do you mean to say you’ve never looked inside a drop of blood? Well, I’ll show you then.

Inside each and every drop of blood are millions of little “soldiers”. They are called...

**RED BLOOD CELLS.**

They do a really important job: they are the ones who bring us oxygen, the fuel our body needs to work properly.

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**But when there aren’t enough red blood cells and they’re not feeling well, our bodies run out of fuel. All because of a family of diseases called...**

**ANEMIAS**

That is why every now and then you need to have a blood transfusion: to help your red blood cells to carry oxygen to every part of your body.
The problem is that every time you have a transfusion, the new blood brings with it a whole lot of iron.

If you take it on its own, iron is very well-behaved.

But as soon as a whole lot of iron particles get together... it spells trouble!

So we need something to stop the iron, something that will get rid of it from your body. You need a medicine.

Scientists have invented various types of medicine to take the iron away.

The old medicines which needed a needle and pump...

... or else pills you had to swallow or tablets to dissolve in water...

... and now there's even a new syrup.

But, before we give any kids of your age this syrup, we have to carry out a trial.

What's a trial?

It's a way of finding out whether the syrup works properly. If it works fine, in future all children just like you who need transfusions will be able to take it.

Do you want to help us out with our trial? We would be so grateful. You'd be giving a great helping hand! Your doctor will take a look at you to check whether you can take part. But remember that the person who decides in the end is YOU. If you're frightened and don't feel like taking part, then just say so. No-one will be angry with you and the doctor will carry on giving you the old medicine.

But if you want to take part, take a look at the next page!
THE RULES FOR OUR TRIAL:
- 344 children and young people under the age of 18
- 14 months of trial
- 6 days without any medicine
- 12 months with the syrup or soluble tablets

Remember:
At the beginning of the trial, doctors will pick the children’s names out of a hat and divide them into two groups. The first group will take the syrup and the second group will take the tablets.

Jump onto the track to find out what you will be doing each month!

During the trial, some children will do more tests on their heart and liver. But no worries; these tests are very simple!
Sometimes, after taking the medicine, you might not feel great. That’s quite normal — no need to be afraid.

You’ll be feeling much better in a couple of days.

If you feel anything strange, tell your parents straight away and let the doctor know. He’ll tell you what to do.

Now is your chance to ask Dr. Ironless

Test-tubes and lightning, what a lot of questions!

So can I relax?
Yes of course you can! Your doctor will keep an eye on you the whole time to make sure everything is OK. There’s really nothing to be frightened of.

What if I change my mind and want to leave the Trial?
You can leave whenever you want. No-one will be angry with you and your doctor will carry on giving you the best treatment. Together with your doctor and your parents … most of the choice is up to YOU.

Who will know I’m taking part in this Trial?
No-one except for you, your family and your doctor.
SO WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

That's up to you to decide.

Your doctor and your parents think that this trial might help you, as well as lots of kids just like you.

In the whole country.

In all the countries around the world.

SO, DO YOU FANCY TAKING PART?

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Study Title: Multi-centre, randomised, open label, non-inferiority active-controlled trial to evaluate the efficacy and safety of deferiprone compared to deferasirox in paediatric patients from 1 month to less than 18 years of age affected by transfusion-dependent haemoglobinopathies.

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