

Novel treatments available in Welsh Hospital following a shift in collaborative working

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Background

The early phase team at the clinical research facility has collaborated with the Ophthalmology department to deliver a novel infusion for patients with proptosis as a result of Thyroid Eye Disease (TED).

Aims and objectives

The aim of this clinical trial is to explore the safety and tolerability of 3 different treatment duration options and the need for re-treatment with the drug teprotumumab. Teprotumumab is a fully human anti-IGF-1R mAB and prevents its activation by the endogenous ligands IGF-1 and IGF2. The aim of this trial is to open up treatment options that before now were limited. If the patients were non-responsive to the treatment, then surgery would have been the next corrective action. This has reduced the need and risk for invasive surgery.

Results

Although the trial is still ongoing and in its early stages, this has already had a positive impact on patients because of the reduced need for surgical intervention. Although this drug is still being trialled in the United Kingdom and Europe, it has been licensed for use in the United States with successful results for patients and there are high hopes for approval for its use in the UK and Europe.

Methods

The collaboration of the 2 departments has provided patients with the opportunity to receive this new trial drug that previously was not available due to:

- Limited capacity in clinical environments
- Access to specialised medical care
- Risk surrounding staff skill sets
- Limited experience in carrying out trial specific procedures.

These factors previously prevented trials like this being carried out in a single speciality area but working collaboratively now means patients on this trial receive specialist care in departments with staff experienced in their field of work.



NHS (2022) [Bulging eyes \(exophthalmos\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Conclusion

A collaboration of this nature has been identified as being long overdue with the need for different specialities with a varying skill set and knowledge base to come together to provide combined care for our patients. This should be opened up with all specialities as working collaboratively is clearly having a positive impact on patient care.



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