

f SHARP focus

Thank You

FINAL
EDITION
2010

NEWSLETTER OF THE SHARP STUDY

Welcome to the final edition of the participant newsletter for the SHARP study

Dear SHARP participant

You have now completed your final scheduled appointment for the SHARP trial – congratulations!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you personally for your participation and commitment to this very important trial. As you may be aware, with nearly 9500 participants in 18 countries, SHARP is by far the largest randomized trial ever performed in kidney patients. With your help - and the help of thousands of patients like you – we hope to be able to find out whether people with kidney problems benefit from treatment to lower their cholesterol.

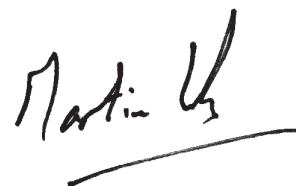
The study results are eagerly anticipated by patients and kidney specialists from around the world. However, the results won't be known until November 2010. This is because patients will be coming to their final SHARP appointments between March and August, following which we will need to allow enough time to complete our paperwork.

The rest of this newsletter consists of a series of questions you may wish to ask us after your final SHARP appointment, together with the answers. Please read these questions and answers carefully. If you need any more information then please contact the Doctor at your local SHARP clinic, using the details provided at the bottom of this page.

On behalf of everyone involved in the SHARP trial we would like to thank you again for taking part and wish you all the best for the future.



Professor Colin Baigent



Dr Martin Landray

Principal Investigators, University of Oxford, UK

The Doctor in charge of your local SHARP clinic is:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

Email:



Questions and Answers

Do I need to let my doctors know the trial is finishing?

Yes, we recommend that you contact the doctors who are responsible for your routine care to let them know that your involvement in the SHARP trial has ended. The SHARP clinic staff can give you a letter to pass on to your doctors.

How do I know if I should be treated with drugs to lower my cholesterol?

This is something you will need to discuss with your doctors. They will be able to advise what to do based on their knowledge of your condition and their understanding of the scientific evidence. Obviously the quality of the evidence will be improved once the SHARP results are known in November 2010, so your doctors may decide to review their advice at that time.

Will I need to take any special precautions when I stop taking the study treatment?

Your study treatment was either a tablet containing ezetimibe and simvastatin or a matching placebo (dummy) tablet. There are no recognized withdrawal symptoms when patients stop taking these drugs. However, if you are taking a blood-thinning drug such as warfarin it is important that that you have your INR (blood clotting screen) checked 4- 7 days after stopping the study tablets.

When and how can I find out the results of the trial?

The trial results are expected to be presented for the first time at a meeting in mid-November 2010. They will also appear on our study website www.sharpinfo.org. If you are unable to access this website please contact the staff at your local SHARP clinic who will be able to help you. Alternatively, you should ask your doctors to explain to you the information we publish on our website. The final results will also be published in a medical journal.

Will I be able to find out which treatment I was taking during SHARP?

The Doctor in charge of your local SHARP clinic will be able to help you find out whether you were taking active treatment or placebo. However, you won't be able to get this information until after we've completed work in the study in November 2010.

