INSTITUTION HEADED PAPER

PATIENT INFORMATION - SUMMARY

What is the purpose of the TACERA study?
The purpose of the study is to collect detailed clinical information and biological samples over an 18 month period that will help us further understand why some patients with rheumatoid arthritis go into remission and others don't.

Why have I been chosen?
We are approaching you because you have recently been referred by your GP to a Rheumatology Outpatient Department for assessment of your arthritis. Depending on the outcome of this assessment, it is possible that you may be eligible to participate in this study.

What will I have to do?
If you decide to take part in this study we will follow you over an 18 month period, collecting detailed information about the treatment of your arthritis and how you respond to it. To do this you will need to attend your rheumatology outpatient department every 3 months to have your arthritis assessed by a member of the research team. The frequency of assessments for this study have been designed to coincide with routine visits as recommended by NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) whose guidance sets the standard for high quality health, social care and public health, including recommendations for the best treatments for patients..

Do I have to take part?
No. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you choose to take part you are free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason. This would not affect the standard of care nor the treatment that you receive.

What are the benefits involved in the study?
Your arthritis will be monitored very closely by the rheumatology research team. You will have a dedicated research nurse who you will be able to contact directly with any questions or concerns relating to your care and also your participation in the study.

What are the risks involved in the study?
As this is an observational study there are no additional risks relating to taking medication involved beyond those which you would experience in routine care. You may experience some discomfort when having blood samples taken. This will be minimised by using clinical professionals trained and experienced in taking blood from patients.

What other assessments will be done?
In addition to the collection of biological samples, the visits will consist of an assessment of your disease activity, completing questionnaires about how arthritis affects your daily life and collecting information on lifestyle factors. X-rays of hands and feet will be taken at the beginning, 12 month stage and end of the study to assess the activity of your arthritis and whether it is damaging your joints. Full details of what is involved at each assessment are given in the main Patient Information Sheet.

If you would like more information on the study, please ask for a Patient Information Sheet. If you have any further questions about the study, please feel free to call:

TACERA Study Co-ordinator: 020 7848 5206

Or for medical questions, please call: Professor Andrew Cope: 020 7848 6901