

AHCC Trials Group

Newsletter 2018

Making a difference together

Contents

Page 2

Happenings

- AHCC Trials Group and the Beginning of the Singapore Liver Cancer Consortium

Page 5

Multi-Centre Trials of the AHCC

Page 6

Moving Forward

Page 6

Contact Details

AHCC Trials Group

Group Chair:

Prof Soo Khee Chee

Protocol Chair, AHCC06,

AHCC07 and AHCC08:

Prof Pierce Chow

Trial Coordinating Centre:

Welcome to our AHCC Trials Group yearly newsletter.

2018 has been an eventful year for the trials group. The AHCC06 SIRveNIB clinical trial has concluded its study with results first presented at ASCO 2017 in Chicago in June 2017 and published in JCO in March 2018.

The AHCC07 PLANet study completed its first onsite SAB in April 2018, held in conjunction with the AHCC Trials Group General meeting. The study team has published 3 papers in high-impact journals and is currently preparing for 1 more paper before the end of 2018. The study has aroused the interest of academia institutions and industry partners and discussions are currently underway for possible collaborations.

The preliminary results of the AHCC08 study were accepted as online poster at the ASCO 2018 and ILCA 2018. The abstract of a recent analysis of 700 patients from 6 sites has been submitted to ASCO 2019. There are also plans for a publication upon recruitment of 1,000 patients.

The AHCC Trials Group sincerely thanks all the study team members, collaborators and sponsors for the support these 21 years. We look forward to stronger and closer collaborations with our members and industry partners.

AHCC Trials Group and the beginning of the Singapore Liver Cancer Consortium

The AHCC Trials Group recently celebrated its 21st birthday on 26 April 2018 at the 2nd Symposium of the Singapore Liver Cancer Consortium (SLCC). The event was celebrated by members of the Trials Group from 14 countries who were here to attend the General Meeting of the Trials Group.

While Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) is the 6th most common cancer globally, about 80% of patients with HCC are found in the Asia-Pacific because of the high prevalence of chronic hepatitis B. In many countries in the Asia-Pacific, HCC is among the 3 most important cancers. HCC afflicts about a million people annually and it is the 2nd most common cause of cancer death in the world. This attests to the importance of ongoing translational and clinical research in HCC to address this huge unmet clinical need for more efficacious therapies.

The birthday cake was cut by 3 of the founding members, Prof Soo Khee Chee, Prof Khin Maung Win (Myanmar) and Prof Pierce Chow. Prof Chow, Protocol Chair of the Trials Group remarked, "Research in HCC lags behind that of other common cancers such as colorectal and breast cancer, because during most of recent history, HCC was seen as a cancer of poor people in the 3rd world. It used to be of little interest to the pharmaceutical industry. And until recently, there was neither the funding nor the expertise to carry out cutting-edge research on HCC in the Asia-Pacific where the cancer is endemic."



The founders of the AHCC Trials Group celebrating the 21st anniversary of the Trials Group at the 2nd Symposium of the SLCC, 26 April 2018. From left, Prof Khin Maung Win, Prof Pierce Chow and Prof Soo Khee Chee.

The Asia-Pacific Hepatocellular Carcinoma (AHCC) Trials Group is a collaborative research group started in 1997 by clinicians in Asia-Pacific who shared a common goal of seeking efficacious treatments for HCC. They recognized the urgency of the unmet clinical need and the necessity for collaboration for efficacious therapies to be developed for the large number of patients with HCC. The mission of the Trials Group is to conduct preventive and therapeutic trials in HCC, carry out translational research in this field and develop training and educational programs pertaining to HCC.

The Trials Group's first randomised controlled trial was initiated by the Singapore General Hospital as a single centre prospective HCC clinical trial in 1997 but was very soon joined by Hong Kong, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand. Since then, the Trials Group has grown to a network of clinicians with a demonstrated track record of success in HCC research. The Trials Group's multi-ethnicity allows clinicians access to all the important etiological and ethnic variations in HCC. To date the AHCC Trials Group has initiated 8 prospective multi-centre studies that has involved more than 50 participating centres from 15 countries and has enrolled close to 2,000 patients.



The 1st Symposium of the SLCC was held on 13 July 2017 at the National Dental Centre.

On 4 June 2017, results of the 27-centre phase III AHCC06 SIRveNIB Trial (Multi-Centre Open-Label Randomized Controlled Trial of Selective Internal Radiation Therapy Versus Sorafenib in Locally Advanced Hepatocellular) was presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting in Chicago and the paper was subsequently published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology in 2018. The AHCC Trials Group currently has 2 actively recruiting prospective studies namely:

AHCC07 Precision Medicine in Liver Cancer across an Asia-Pacific Network (NCT03267641)

- Status: Recruitment in progress. Target recruitment of 100 patients. Preliminary results were published in Gut, Nat Commu, Proc Natl Acad Sci and Biomaterials.
- Number of participating centres: 6

AHCC08 Hepatocellular Carcinoma Registry in Asia (NCT03233360)

- Status: Recruitment in progress. Target recruitment of 2,500 patients from 9 countries. Preliminary results were presented at ASCO 2018 and ILCA 2018.
- Number of participating centres: 30 recruiting and 14 pending

The Trials Group holds regular General Meeting which give the clinicians opportunities for face-to-face meetings to revisit and align the group's mission and to discuss current and new therapies available for HCC. Ideas on new studies and feedback on currently recruiting studies are discussed at these meetings and common practices are also shared to have an overall picture of the treatment and management of HCC in Asia-Pacific. In conjunction with the general meeting, the Trials Group also holds its Scientific Forums which are open to all medical professionals and industry partners.

In 2017, the Singapore Liver Cancer Consortium (SLCC) was formed by participating institutions of NMRC-funded Translational-Clinical Research (TCR) National Flagship Program in Liver Cancer (Precision Medicine in Liver Cancer across an Asia-Pacific Network) and the scientific forum was renamed the Symposium of the SLCC. This allows the study team the opportunity to integrate, coordinate and leverage on the strength of the AHCC Trials Group and collaborators. Since the inception of this flagship program, the group has held 2 symposiums, (one of which was held together with Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) meeting of the Flagship Program) and has published 6 papers in high impact journals.

The SLCC aims to create an internationally competitive HCC platform to develop disruptive technologies for precision medicine in HCC.

AHCC08 Hepatocellular Carcinoma Registry in Asia (NCT03233360)

- Protocol Chair: Prof Pierce Chow
- Status: Recruitment in progress. Target recruitment of 2,500 patients from 9 countries. Preliminary results were presented at ASCO 2018 and ILCA 2018.
- Number of participating centres: 30 recruiting and 14 pending

AHCC07 Precision Medicine in Liver Cancer across an Asia-Pacific Network (NCT03267641)

- Protocol Chair: Prof Pierce Chow
- Status: Recruitment in progress. Target recruitment of 100 patients. Preliminary results were published in Gut, Nat Commu, Proc Natl Acad Sci and Biomaterials.
- Number of participating centres: 6

AHCC06 Phase III Multi-Centre Open-Label Randomized Controlled Trial of Selective Internal Radiation Therapy (SIRT) Versus Sorafenib in Locally Advanced Hepatocellular Carcinoma (NCT01135056)

- Protocol Chair: Prof Pierce Chow
- Status: Completed in May 2016 with recruitment of 360 patients. Published in Journal of Clinical Oncology 2 March 2018. doi: 10.1200/JCO.2017.76.0892 and BMC 7 November 2016 doi: 10.1186/s12885-016-2868-y.
- Number of participating centres: 29

AHCC05 Phase I/II Study of SIR-Spheres plus Sorafenib (Chemo-Radiotherapy) as First Line Treatment in Patients with Non-Resectable Primary Hepatocellular Carcinoma (NCT00712790)

- Protocol Chair: Prof Pierce Chow
- Status: Completed in June 2009 with recruitment of 35 patients. Published in PLoS ONE 2014 9(3):e90909. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0090909.
- Number of participating centres: 5

AHCC04 Phase II Dose Escalating Trial of Intra-Tumoral BrachySil in Unresectable Hepatocellular Carcinoma (NCT00247260)

- Protocol Chair: Prof Pierce Chow
- Status: Completed. Results Published in International Journal of Radiation Oncology *Biology* Physics Vol. 67, Issue 3, 1 March 2007; 786-792.
- Number of participating centres: 6

AHCC03 Randomised Trial of Adjuvant Intra-Arterial Radio-Active Iodine after Curative Resection of Hepatocellular Carcinoma (NCT00027768)

- Protocol Chair: Prof London Ooi
- Status: Completed in March 2007 with recruitment of 103 patients. Published in World J Surg 6 March 2013: 1-6.
- Number of participating centres: 4

AHCC02 Randomized Double Blind Trial of Megestrol Acetate versus Placebo for the Treatment of Inoperable Hepatocellular Carcinoma (NCT00041275)

- Protocol Chair: Prof Pierce Chow
- Status: Completed in 2007 with recruitment of 204 patients. Results published in Br J Cancer 2011 September 27;105(7): 945-952.
- Number of participating centres: 8

AHCC01 Randomised Trial of Tamoxifen versus Placebo for the Treatment of Inoperable Hepatocellular Carcinoma (NCT00003424)

- Protocol Chair: Prof Pierce Chow
- Status: Completed in June 2000 with recruitment of 324 patients. Results published in Hepatology 2002 36:1221-1226.
- Number of participating centres: 11

Moving Forward

The Trials Group continuously works with academic researchers and industry partners. This leverages on complementary strengths, to design and plan clinical trials and studies that lead to a better understanding of HCC and improve clinical outcomes of patients with HCC.

Since the conception of the AHCC Trials Group in 1997, the AHCC Trials Group Secretariat led by Prof Pierce Chow has been involved in the general administration and management of the AHCC Trials Group network. The Secretariat has been maintaining the network registry, website, social media sites and the publishing of the periodic newsletters for the network to keep the group abreast of any developments and happenings across the network. The Secretariat works closely with academic clinical trials organizations, pharmaceutical and biotech industry partners to organize the General Meetings, Scientific Forums as well as ad-hoc meetings of the trials group.

The AHCC Trials Group will like to thank all the members and collaborators for their support.

6th General Meeting
31st Oct 2014
Duke-NUS Medical School



7th General Meeting
29th May 2015
The Academia, SingHealth



8th General Meeting, 29th Jan 2016
The Academia, SingHealth



9th General Meeting, 26th Aug 2016
The Academia, SingHealth



10th General Meeting, 13th Jul 2017
National Dental Centre, SingHealth



13

Contact Details

For further queries, please contact the AHCC Trials Group at

Network Secretariat:

Ms Lynette Lai

Email: ahccgroup@nccs.com.sg

DID: (65) 6326 2151

Read more about all trials
under AHCC Trials Group at
<http://www.scri.edu.sg>.