

Patient Update Letter

As Chief Investigators we would like to express our deepest thanks for your participation in the APHRODITE trial

This trial aims to help to improve the treatment of patients like yourself with early stage rectal cancer. We hope that we will be able to determine whether higher dose chemo-radiotherapy can serve as a viable alternative treatment for patients who cannot, or would prefer not, to have invasive surgery for their rectal cancer. This newsletter provides an update on the progress and current status of the trial.

Patient and Public Involvement

The APHRODITE trial is conducted in close collaboration with our patient representatives, Monica Jefford and Alwyn Burrage. They are directly involved in all parts of the trial, including this newsletter. They have helped greatly with issues arising on the trial, including the use of cancer tissue donated by trial patients.

Press Release

We would like to share the exciting news that we had a story published in the press in November 2023. The story is about an APHRODITE patient at The Christie who is now cancer free!

The story was published on multiple news sites and the patient and the doctor at The Christie gave a great interview on this story.

Article <https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2023-11-20/ex-premier-league-football-scout-given-all-clear-after-pioneering-cancer-trial>

Interview <https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2023-11-23/ex-manchester-united-scout-cancer-free-after-medical-trial-success>

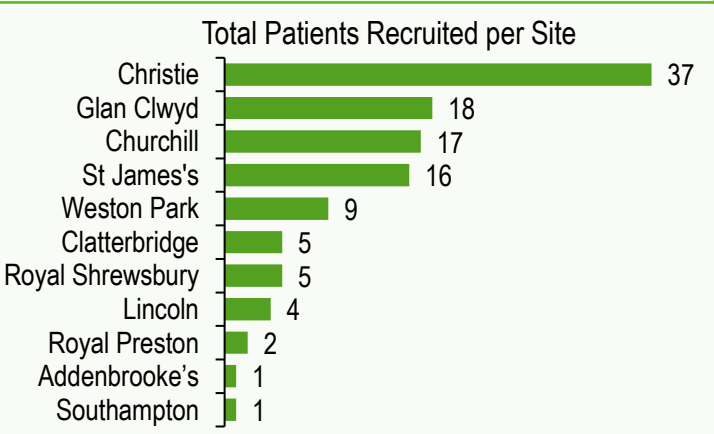


Yours sincerely,

Simon Gollins
Ane Appelt
Co-Joint Chief Investigators of the APHRODITE Trial

Trial Status

APHRODITE is currently recruiting patients in 10 hospitals and it is brilliant news that **115** patients have been recruited! We will continue to recruit until 133 patients have been recruited or until the end of October 2024, whichever comes first. The trial will continue for 2 years following the last patient being recruited, although we may be able to provide the first results before that point.



Survey Study

We would also like to thank those who agreed to take part in the linked survey study "How do patients make decisions about rectal cancer treatment?". The survey is helping us work out what trade-offs patients are willing to make between treatment benefits and the risks of short-term and long-term side effects. A total of 82 patients have already taken part, and the results will be useful for the planning of future trials.

For more details on the trial or DCE study please refer to your Patient Information Sheet or ask your doctor or research nurse. You can also visit the trial website at <https://ctr.leeds.ac.uk/aphrodite/>.