

CCLG: The Children & Young People's Cancer Association research: Understanding new treatment options for when treatment for neuroblastoma doesn't work or the cancer grows back

Project title: A systematic review of early phase studies for children and young people with relapsed and refractory neuroblastoma

Project stage: Starting soon (May 2025)

Funded by: CCLG and CCLG Special Named Funds including Ieuan Evans Memorial Fund, The Hayley Bendall Fund, Adam Hay Fund, Ammaar's Transformers Appeal, and Denver's Superhero Fund

Led by: Dr Jess Morgan, University of York



About the project

Neuroblastoma is one of the most common forms of cancer in children and young people, and it varies a lot between patients. The number of people who are cured after their first round of treatment can be anywhere from 50% to 90%. If the cancer is 'refractory' (has not responded to treatment) or 'relapsed' (has grown back after treatment), the likelihood of being cured is much lower. In this situation, families may face difficult decisions about what to do next. Some try early phase studies that aim to test the safety and potential effectiveness of new treatments. These studies often have few young people with this disease included, so it can be difficult to know what the best new treatment options are.

Dr Jess Morgan at the University of York will be conducting a 'systematic review' into relapsed/refractory neuroblastoma treatment in children and young people. Systematic reviews take all of the relevant available studies and check their relevance and reliability. By using their data, Dr Morgan will be able to reliably summarise the current state of neuroblastoma research. This review will identify and bring together all relevant studies, showing what experimental treatments there are, their effectiveness and what side effects they may have. The team also hope to look at which factors, such as age or cancer genetics, affect the success of these treatments. They will identify any 'gaps' in the research, where more understanding is needed. During the project, the team will work with professionals and families with experience of neuroblastoma to draw on their expertise.

The researchers will share their findings throughout the project with everyone who needs to know about them. This includes patients and families, healthcare professionals, researchers, and research funders.



The Children &
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