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Cystic Fibrosis Research News

Title:

PRospective Evaluation of Nontuberculous Mycobacteria Disease in CysTic Fibrosis: The design of the PREDICT study

Lay Title:

Making the diagnosis of nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) lung disease standard with the PREDICT study

Authors:

Stacey L. Martiniano[1], Silvia M.Caceres[2], Katie Poch[2], Noel M. Rysavy[2], Valerie K. Lovell[2], Emily Armantrout[2], Marion Jones[2], Margaret Anthony[1], Allison Keck[1], David P. Nichols[3], Jill M. Vandalfsen[3], Scott D. Sagel[1], Brandie Wagner[4], Jing Xie[3], Katie Weaver[3], Sonya L. Heltshe[3], Charles L. Daley[2,6], Rebecca M. Davidson[5], Jerry A. Nick[2,6] for the Investigators of the Cystic Fibrosis NTM Consortium[7]

Affiliations:

1. Department of Pediatrics, Children's Hospital Colorado, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, CO, 80045, USA
2. Department of Medicine, National Jewish Health, Denver, CO, 80206, USA
3. Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Therapeutics Development Network Coordinating Center, Seattle Children's Research Institute, Seattle, Washington.
4. Department of Biostatistics and Informatics, Colorado School of Public Health University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus Aurora Colorado.
5. Center for Genes, Environment, and Health, National Jewish Health, Denver, CO, 80206, USA
6. Department of Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, CO, 80045, USA
7. Investigators of the Cystic Fibrosis NTM Consortium listed in the Appendix

What was your research question?

How can we make the diagnosis of NTM disease in CF uniform? What are the best predictors of NTM lung disease? Can we discover new biomarkers that detect NTM lung disease?

Why is this important?

People with CF may grow NTM from their sputum, but this does not necessarily mean they have NTM lung disease that requires treatment. The decision to diagnose and treat NTM lung

disease depends on faster clinical decline than expected in CF. The PREDICT study aims to identify the important signs, symptoms and markers to quickly and accurately evaluate and diagnose NTM lung disease.

What did you do?

We designed a study protocol to follow people with CF (older than age 6) with a recent positive NTM culture. The protocol observes and records individual changes in their clinical outcomes overtime and emphasizes optimization of all aspects of CF care. We also are collecting samples like blood and urine to explore new markers of NTM disease. The focus is the diagnosis of NTM lung disease, in order to identify people who may benefit from antibiotic treatment of the infection. The study is ongoing at many Centers in the United States.

What did you find?

We are not reporting results, but rather explaining how we have designed the PREDICT study. This report is the foundation for a series of publications that will report the findings from this study.

What does this mean and reasons for caution?

This approach to diagnosing and starting treatment for NTM lung disease is based on consensus guidelines, but has not yet been proven. It is possible that in the future, methods that are more accurate will be discovered to identify whom to treat for this infection.

What's next?

We are continuing to enrol and follow patients in this study, and analyse samples for biomarkers. Results will be available on ClinicalTrials.gov, conference presentations and peer-review publications.

Appendix: Investigators of the Cystic Fibrosis NTM Consortium

G. Marty Solomon, MD, University of Alabama Birmingham, Alabama, United States
Thomas G. Keens, MD, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles Los Angeles, California, United States
Douglas J. Conrad, MD, University of California San Diego San Diego, California, United States
Silvia Delgado Villalta, MD, University of Florida Gainesville, Florida, United States
Manu Jain, MD, Northwestern University Chicago, Illinois, United States
Keira A. Cohen, MD and Noah Lechtzin, MD, Johns Hopkins University Baltimore, Maryland, United States

Cystic Fibrosis Research News

Rebecca E. Cagnina, MD, Boston Children's Hospital, Brigham & Women's Hospital Boston, Massachusetts, United States
Lindsay J. Caverly, MD, University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan, United States
Brian P. O'Sullivan, MD, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center Lebanon, New Hampshire, United States
Emily DiMango, MD**,** Columbia University New York, New York, United States
Jennifer L. Goralski, MD and Charles R. Esther, MD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Chapel Hill, North Carolina, United States
Karen S. McCoy, MD, Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus, Ohio, United States
Joseph M. Pilewski, MD, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States
Raksha Jain, MD, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Dallas, Texas, United States
Zachary L. Weintraub, MD, University of Vermont Medical Center Burlington, Vermont, United States
Ronald L. Gibson, MD, Children's Hospital Seattle, Washington, United States
Moira L. Aitken, MD, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, United States
Matthias Salathe, MD, University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas, United States
Charles S. Haworth, MD, Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Cambridge, United Kingdom
Kenneth N. Olivier, MD, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, United States
Michael P. Boyle, MD and Bruce C. Marshall, MD, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Bethesda, Maryland, United States.

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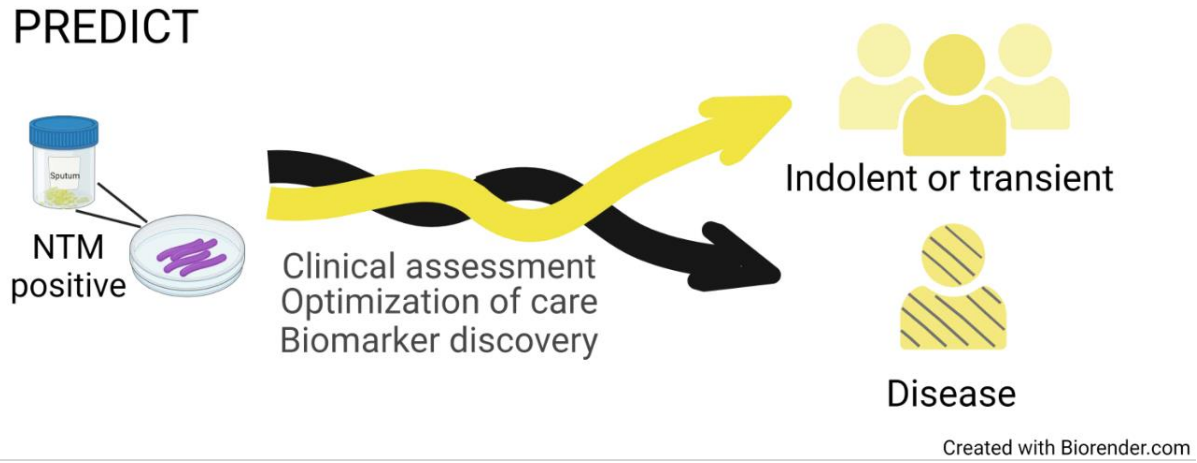

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