Dequalinium versus usual care antibiotics for the treatment of bacterial vaginosis (DEVA):

a multicentre randomised, open label, non-inferiority trial

A study comparing dequalinium chloride and usual care antibiotics for the treatment of bacterial vaginosis

DEVA

FUNDED BY NIHR | National Institute for Health Research

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www.devastudy.ac.uk

DEVA Participant Information Sheet Pathway 3

We are inviting you to take part in a research project called DEVA.

You do not have to take part if you do not want to.

Please read this information, which will help you decide.

We would like to invite you to join the DEVA study (**DE**qualinium versus antibiotics for the treatment of Bacterial **VA**ginosis) which has been set up by Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and the Nottingham Clinical Trials Unit in collaboration with the National Institute for Health Research.

We are carrying out a study of just over 900 women with bacterial vaginosis (BV) to compare a non-antibiotic treatment called dequalinium chloride with the antibiotic treatments women are normally prescribed. Our goal is to find out whether the non-antibiotic treatment, is as effective at treating BV symptoms. The results of this study will help guide the treatment of BV in the future.

The usual treatment for BV is antibiotics. Although these may work in the short term, many women find that their BV comes back and that some of these treatments have unpleasant side effects. Also, the number of organisms becoming resistant to antibiotics is increasing, so there is a world-wide drive to reduce the use of antibiotics.

Women can participate in the study from all over the UK, some will be recruited to the study by their local sexual health clinic, and some women will join via the study website. If you are recruited from the study website your care will be coordinated by the Leeds Sexual Health team. All contact with the Leeds Sexual Health team will be by phone, post or email so you do not need to go to Leeds to take part.

Before you decide whether you want to take part in this study, it is important for you to understand why the study is being done and what is involved. Please take the time to read the information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.

To help us to know whether you are suitable to take part, you will be asked to complete a short questionnaire on the study website. Your answers will help us know whether you match the study criteria and if you do, a member of the Leeds Sexual Health team will contact you to discuss the study further. If you are suitable and give your consent to take part, you will be asked to take two vaginal swabs, that will be posted to your home address. These are the same as the swabs you would be asked to take as part of a routine visit to your GP or local sexual health clinic.

If any of the information is unclear or you have any questions, please contact the DEVA team at Leeds Sexual Health, their contact details are provided at the end of this leaflet.

More information about the study can be found at: **www.devastudy.ac.uk**

Thank you for taking the time to consider taking part in the DEVA study.

Why do we need this study?

Currently the most common treatment for women with BV symptoms is antibiotics. These can cause unpleasant side effects such as dizziness, nausea and vaginal soreness. The antibiotics may also not cure the BV completely, over 1 in 5 women get their BV symptoms back within one month. For these women it is not unusual to have to take repeated courses of antibiotics which can have an impact on their day-to-day life. Also, there is major concern about bacteria becoming resistant to antibiotics and causing damage to the body's good bacteria. Therefore, it is thought that a non-antibiotic treatment for BV would be a good thing both for women with BV and for the NHS.

Dequalinium chloride is a non-antibiotic, antiseptic treatment that is already licensed for BV and is given as tablets inserted into the vagina once a day for 6 days. However, it is not known if it is a good as antibiotics in treating BV.

This study is needed so that we can find out if dequalinium chloride is as good as current antibiotics for the treatment of BV. If it is, then it will allow women and their doctors more choice in treatments for BV and reduce the number of antibiotics being prescribed.

Why have I been invited and do I have to take part?

You have been invited because you have BV symptoms and would like treatment for them. You do not have to take part in this study - it is entirely up to you to decide if you would like to join. If you decide that it isn't for you, then that is OK.

You do not need a BV diagnosis to take part and it's okay if you are not sure if you are suitable, please read below to find out the ways we will check if you are able to participate.

If you do not take part you should seek advice from your GP or local sexual health clinic about your symptoms of BV. The treatment you receive from your GP or sexual health clinic may be the same as the treatment you would have received by taking part in this study.

What does taking part in the study involve?

If you agree to take part in the study, this would involve:

Completing a short 5 question pre-screening questionnaire on the website

This will take around 3 minutes. The purpose of the questionnaire is to find out if you are eligible (suitable) for treatment. If you are suitable, you will be asked to provide your contact details so the Research Team at Leeds Sexual Health can you call you to discuss the project with you. The Leeds Sexual Health team will coordinate your care remotely, so you do not have to go to Leeds or live close to Leeds to take part in this study.

If you are not suitable for the study you will be advised to contact your GP or local sexual health clinic to seek treatment for your symptoms.

Completing the questionnaire does not mean that you are agreeing to take part in the study. But if you provide your contact details you are agreeing to be contacted by the Leeds Sexual Health team to discuss the study.

Phone call from the Leeds Sexual Health team

You will have a phone/video call from the Leeds Sexual Health Team (approx. 15 minutes). During this phone call you will learn about the study and have the opportunity to ask questions. You will be sent this Patient Information Sheet and a copy of the study consent form if you express interest in the DEVA study. It is important that you read all the information in this information sheet before consenting to join the study. If you would like to take part in the DEVA study you will be asked to give written informed consent. This consent form will be completed remotely, using a computer or a mobile device. Once you have completed the consent form it will be sent to the DEVA research team, who will then countersign the consent form. If there are any problems with your consent form it will be sent back to you.

Home vaginal swab kit

Once your consent form is signed (by you and the Leeds Sexual Health team) a vaginal swab kit will be sent to your home address. The kit will contain everything you need to take and return your swabs including instructions and a pre-paid envelope. The kit will contain two swabs; one to confirm your BV diagnosis and the other to screen for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), these are the same as the tests you would have if you visited a sexual health clinic with these symptoms outside of the study. You will be informed of the results of you BV test. If your BV test and final checks show you are suitable, and if you choose to participate, your STI screen will be tested and those results reported back to you at a later date. If an STI is found, the Leeds Sexual Health team will refer you to your nearest sexual health clinic for treatment, or if you prefer, they will provide you with written confirmation about the infection which you can give to your GP.

If you do not participate in the study you will be advised to speak to your GP or local sexual health team regarding your symptoms and your STI screening swab will be discarded without testing.

Randomisation

If you have a positive BV test result and the study doctor agrees you should take part in the DEVA study, your treatment will be decided by a process called 'randomisation'.

Randomisation: means that participants are equally likely to be given given one of the two treatments. It is a little like tossing a coin but is done by a computer. Neither you, nor anyone else will be able to choose whether you get usual care antibiotics or dequalinium chloride. This is to make sure that this study is doing a 'fair comparison' of dequalinium chloride versus antibiotics.

So, before you agree to join the study you need to be sure that you **are willing to use either of the treatment options.**

Taking your treatment

You will be sent your treatment in the post and it is best to start your treatment the day you receive it. You will be asked to take all your treatment as instructed. We will text you 14 days after you join the study, to ask if you have taken all your treatment, and if you have not, we will ask you how much you took.

Week 4 vaginal swab kit

Along with your treatment you will be sent a further vaginal swab kit containing one swab to test whether your BV has cleared following your treatment. You will be asked to take this swab four weeks after joining the trial, at the same time as completing your first study questionnaire. Like the samples you take to check your suitability to join the study, you will be sent the kit and instructions on how to take the swab at home and you will need to post them back to Leeds Sexual Health in the package provided to you.

Answering some questions

We will send you two short questionnaires; one will be 4 weeks after joining the study and the other 2 months later. This can either be posted to you or can be done on-line using a link we will send by text or e-mail. You can choose how you would prefer to receive this. The questionnaires will ask about your BV symptoms and any additional BV treatment you have used, any changes in your sexual partners and if you have used any NHS services related to your BV or study treatment.

We understand that sometimes you can forget to take treatment or give up before you finish all your treatment. It is valuable for us to know this, and for you to complete your questionnaires as planned even if you did not take your treatment.

There is an extra part of the study that you may be asked to consider taking part in. Taking part in this is completely optional and will not affect your participation in the main study.

This extra part of the study would require you to take 2 additional swabs, one to take at the same time as your study entry checks and the other to be taken at the same time as your week 4 swab. These additional samples will be posted as part of the study sample kits. These swabs will be stored for future

All the samples you take for the study will be anonymised and are for research purposes only.

Are there any benefits to me joining the study?

Although you may not receive any immediate extra benefit from taking part, this research will help to improve the treatments and care provided to all women with BV in the future. If the study shows that dequalinium chloride is as good as antibiotics in treating BV, it may also result in fewer antibiotics being used which would be a benefit to society as a whole.

As a thank you, if you complete the week 4 questionnaire you will receive a £10 Amazon voucher and a further £5 Amazon voucher once you have completed the week 12 questionnaire.

Are there any risk to me joining the study?

Although dequalinium chloride is used to treat episodes of BV, we still do not know if it works as well as antibiotics. If it does not work, you may have to receive additional treatment for your BV.

As with all medications, there is a small risk of side effects the most common side effects for the treatments are listed below:

Study treatment	Side effects
Dequalinium Chloride	Vaginal candidiasis (thrush/yeast infection), and vulvovaginal discomfort such as itching or burning sen-
Metronidazole tablets	Nausea, diarrhoea, abdominal pain
Metronidazole Intravaginal Gel	vaginal candidiasis (thrush/yeast infection), vaginal itching/irritation/
Clindamycin capsules	Diarrhoea, abdominal pain, pseudomembranous colitis (an overgrowth of bacteria leading to an inflamed bowel), abnormal liver blood tests
Clindamycin Intravaginal cream	Vaginal candidiasis (thrush/yeast infection), vulvovaginal discomfort such as itching or burning sensations
Tinidazole	Nausea, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, headache

The study doctor or nurse will discuss any possible side effects of these treatments with you during your phone call. If you have any concerns, please speak to your study doctor/nurse or contact your pharmacist.

If you are pregnant and found to have symptoms that are diagnosed as BV, it is safe to take any of the recommended treatments even in the first trimester of pregnancy (1st twelve weeks). Some women who have BV in pregnancy may be at increased risk of miscarriage and their baby being born too early. Studies of treating BV in pregnant women have so far shown that treatment did improve their symptoms, but it did not reduce the numbers of miscarriages or of babies who were born too early. We need to monitor any pregnancies to see if there are any differences in the outcomes between the different treatments being used.

What happens if something goes wrong?

In the event that something does go wrong and you are harmed during the research and this is due to someone's negligence then you may have grounds for a legal action for compensation against Leeds Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust but you may have to pay your legal costs. The normal National Health Service complaints mechanisms will still be available to you (if appropriate).

Can I leave the study before the end?

We will only be able to find out if dequalinium chloride is as good as antibiotics for treatment BV if we have data from most of the women who take part. It is really important that, if you have any concerns, you discuss these with a member of your local research team before you agree to join. However, you are free to leave part or all of the study at any time. You do not have to give a reason, but your feedback would be valued as it may allow us to make changes to the study that could improve things for other women with BV who may want to join the study.

Please note that even if you do not take all your treatment, we would still like you to continue being part of the study and complete the questionnaires. This allows us to see what happens in 'real life' as we know that there are occasions when we may forget to take treatment or stop taking treatment early.

If you do have any concerns about the study and want to leave, then you should contact the DEVA trial team based at the NCTU by phone on **0115 748 7105** Mon to Fri: 08:00—16:00

or by emailing deva@nottingham.ac.uk

This will allow us to discuss your concerns with you.

Any information we have collected up to when you leave the study will be used and analysed as part of the study findings. Your information will remain anonymous and insurance companies and employers will not be given any individual's information.

There is a requirement to publish the study findings at the end of the research, but no individual's information will be documented in that report.

What will happen to the information collected about me?

We will need to use information from you for this research project. In doing this we will follow all clinical and research ethical and legal practice. All information about you will be kept strictly confidential and we will keep all information about you safe and secure.

This information will include your name, date of birth (DOB) and contact details. Some of the data collected for the study may be looked at by authorised persons from the Nottingham Clinical Trials Unit (NCTU) at the University of Nottingham who are coordinating the research. They may also be looked at by authorised people from regulatory authorities and Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust to check that the study is carried out correctly. All will have a duty of confidentiality to you as a research participant.

People who do not need to know who you are will not be able to see your name or contact details. A copy of your consent form will be sent to the NCTU but any other information about you which leaves the clinic will have your name and address removed (anonymised). Your data will be anonymised with only your initials and DOB and will be identified by a code number instead. No one will be able to identify your involvement when the findings are published at the end of the study. The anonymised information collected about you may be used to support other research in the future and may be shared with other researchers.

Your personal contact details will be available to the Nottingham Clinical Trials Unit (NCTU) so they can contact you during the study and send the questionnaires. Once the study is finished, some of the data will be kept so we can check the results. Your name and email address will be kept after the end of the study so that we can contact you about the findings of the study. If you do not wish to be contacted with the results of the study all your contact details will be disposed of securely (deleted) at the end of the study. All other data (research data) will be kept securely for 25 years. After this time, your data will be disposed of securely.

As an optional addition to the study, you may also agree to have your name and telephone number will be shared with Esendex, our text messaging provider and their subprocessors, and will be used to send you text message reminders about the study and study questionnaires whilst you are participating in the study. Once your participation has ended you will no longer be contacted but Esendex will retain the data for two years or until the end of the study (whichever occurs first).

What are your choices about how your information is used?

· You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have.

· If you are pregnant, we will let your GP know that you are taking part in this study and ask them to provide us with information on the outcome of your pregnancy. With your permission, we may use NHS Digital and other central UK NHS bodies to help us obtain your pregnancy outcome.

· If you agree to take part in this study, you may have the option to take part in future research using your data saved from this study.

Where can you find out more about how your information is used?

- You can find out more about how we use your information
- at www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/
- at https://www.leedsth.nhs.uk/ and searching for the fair processing notice
- by asking one of the Leeds Sexual Health team
- by sending an email to deva@nottingham.ac.uk

Who is organising and funding the study?

Dr Janet Wilson from Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is carrying out this study. Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust are sponsoring this study. Nottingham Clinical Trials Unit (NCTU) are coordinating the study.

Who has approved the study?

All research in the NHS is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Research Ethics Committee. They are there to protect your safety, rights, wellbeing and dignity when agreeing to join a study. This research has been reviewed and approved by the **North West – Liverpool Central** Research Ethics Committee.

IRAS Project ID: 269405 EudraCT No: 2019-002819-25

Who do I contact if I have concerns?

If you have any questions about the information you have been provided about the DEVA study or the next steps, then please contact the Leeds Sexual Health team on

Helen Rollins, Research Nurse, 0113 39 20302 or

Michelle Loftus-Keeling, Research Nurse 0113 39 20323

If you have any concerns or complaints about anything to do with the DEVA study, then you can contact the DEVA trial team based at the NCTU on:

0115 748 7105 Mon to Fri: 08:00—16:00 or

Email us at: **deva@nottingham.ac.uk**

Alternatively, if you would like to write to the team coordinating the study please send your letter to:

The DEVA Study Team, Nottingham Clinical Trials Unit, Building 42, University Park, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

We will reply to your letter in writing promptly, unless you provide another preferred method of contact. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this through the NHS Complaints Procedure via the Patient Advisory and Liaison Service (PALS)

LTHT PALS: tel. 0113 2066261

Email: patientexperience.leedsth@nhs.net

Or by writing to:

The Chief Executive or Complaints Manager

Trust Headquarters, St. James's University Hospital

Beckett Street, Leeds LS9 7TF