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## Thèse

Pour le

### DOCTORAT EN MEDECINE

Diplôme d'État

par

**Sophie LEDUCQ**

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#### TITRE

**Traitement des malformations cutanées lymphatiques microkystiques par sirolimus topique 0,1% : protocole pour un essai thérapeutique de phase II, randomisé, en double aveugle, en comparaison intra-individuelle versus véhicule**

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# **SERMENT D'HIPPOCRATE**

**En présence des Maîtres de cette Faculté,  
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Service de Pneumologie

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Service de Dermatologie

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## I- INTRODUCTION GÉNÉRALE

Les malformations lymphatiques kystiques sont des malformations vasculaires rares touchant l'enfant et l'adulte (prévalence estimée  $< 0.1\%$ ). Ce sont des malformations à bas débit, résultant d'une anomalie du développement embryologique des vaisseaux lymphatiques. Elles peuvent être macrokystiques, microkystiques ou mixtes et peuvent toucher les viscères ou la peau. Les malformations lymphatiques microkystiques cutanées (MLMC), également appelée lymphangiectasies, se manifestent par des amas de vésicules à contenu clair ou hématiche, localisées habituellement sur les zones segmentaires, en particulier la tête et le cou, les membres inférieurs et les zones génitales. Elles peuvent se compliquer de saignements et parfois d'anémie, d'inflammation, de suintements, de douleurs, de cicatrices, de surinfections, et sont responsables d'une altération majeure de la qualité de vie. L'histoire naturelle des MLMC est l'aggravation des signes, avec augmentation du nombre de lésions et survenue de complications. Actuellement, il n'existe pas de recommandations pour la prise en charge des MLMC. Les options thérapeutiques incluent la sclérothérapie, les traitements physiques (laser ablatif, laser à colorant pulsé, radiofréquence, ...) et la chirurgie, mais ces traitements sont douloureux, entraînent des cicatrices et poussées inflammatoires et leur efficacité est habituellement incomplète et transitoire. L'abstention thérapeutique est donc une attitude fréquemment adoptée.

*Mammalian target of rapamycin* (mTOR) est une sérine/thréonine kinase qui intervient dans la prolifération cellulaire, le métabolisme cellulaire, l'apoptose et l'angio/lymphangiogenèse. Les inhibiteurs de mTOR, en bloquant la voie mTOR, inhibent la prolifération cellulaire et l'angiogenèse, et en particulier la lymphangiogenèse. Parmi les inhibiteurs de mTOR, le sirolimus (ou rapamycine) est le plus ancien et le plus fréquemment utilisé. Du fait de ses propriétés immunosuppressives, il est utilisé par voie systémique depuis plus de 15 ans, principalement pour la prévention de rejet d'organe (transplantation rénale).

Son utilisation par voie orale est bien codifiée. D'autres indications se sont développées secondairement : angiomyolipomes dans la sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville (STB), astrocytomes à cellules géantes dans la STB, malformations vasculaires, etc. Les autres inhibiteurs de mTOR (évérolimus, deforolimus, temsirolimus), appelés *rapalogs*, s'administrent par voie injectable et sont principalement indiqués en cancérologie.

L'utilisation topique du sirolimus s'est développée depuis 2005, d'abord pour le psoriasis (Ormerod et al., 2005) et secondairement pour les angiofibromes liés à la STB (Haemel et al., 2011). Depuis, de nouvelles indications ont été ponctuellement rapportées. Les modes d'utilisation des inhibiteurs de mTOR par voie topique trouvés dans la littérature sont très hétérogènes, que ce soient par l'excipient utilisé, la concentration en produit actif, le nombre d'applications ou la durée. Ceci est probablement lié à l'absence de produit commercialisé à ce jour, les traitements consistant en préparations magistrales à partir de sirolimus en suspension buvable ou en comprimés.

Récemment, 2 publications ont rapporté une efficacité du sirolimus topique pour les MLMC. Dans le 1<sup>er</sup> cas, il s'agissait d'un patient d'une vingtaine d'années avec une MLMC primaire de la région gluteale, traitée par sirolimus topique appliqué une fois par jour pendant 3 mois permettant une régression de la lymphorrhée et une diminution des vésicules lymphatiques (Ivars et al., 2017). La 2<sup>ème</sup> publication rapportait 2 cas : une jeune fille de 13 ans avec une MCLM de la fesse droite et un jeune garçon de 5 ans avec une MLMC de fesse gauche, traitées efficacement par sirolimus topique appliqué pendant 4 et 6 mois respectivement (Garcia-Montero et al., 2017). Pour les 2 publications, aucun effet secondaire n'a été rapporté. Enfin, nous avons publié le cas d'un jeune homme de 18 ans avec une MLMC gluteale traitée efficacement par sirolimus topique, qui a permis une diminution des suintements et des lésions et chez qui le traitement est toujours en cours (Leducq et al., 2018).

Ainsi, notre travail s'est déroulé en 2 temps. Dans un premier temps, nous avons réalisé une revue systématique de la littérature avec méta-analyse. L'objectif a été de faire un état des lieux de toutes les pathologies dermatologiques pour lesquelles l'utilisation d'un inhibiteur de mTOR par voie topique a été publiée, et d'évaluer son efficacité et sa tolérance dans les différentes indications. Cela nous a permis d'appréhender le meilleur mode d'utilisation des inhibiteurs de mTOR par voie topique et de pouvoir anticiper les effets secondaires potentiellement rencontrés avec ce traitement. Ce travail a été fait en collaboration avec l'équipe SPHERE (MethodS in Patients-centered outcomes and HEalth ResEarch). Les résultats de ce travail ont été présentés aux Journées Dermatologiques de Paris en décembre 2017 (communication orale) et ont été soumis pour la Journée de Recherche biomédicale Angers-Tours en Novembre 2018. L'article a été accepté pour publication au *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*. Dans un deuxième temps, nous avons rédigé un protocole de recherche qui a pour objectif d'évaluer l'efficacité du sirolimus topique 0,1% dans les MLCM au moyen d'une étude randomisée, contrôlée, en comparaison intra-individuelle (*split body*), en double aveugle. Ce projet de recherche a été déposé à l'appel d'offre de la Direction Générale de l'Offre de Soins (DGOS) et a été retenu comme Programme Hospitalier de Recherche Clinique National (PHRCN) en 2017. Les inclusions de patients doivent débuter au 1<sup>er</sup> semestre de l'année 2019.

Ces travaux ont été réalisés grâce à une collaboration entre le Centre d'Investigation Clinique - INSERM 1415 de Tours, l'équipe SPHERE – INSERM UMR 1246 et l'équipe de dermatologie de Tours, labellisée en 2017 comme site constitutif du centre de référence MAGEC (MALadies GENétiques rares d'Expression Cutanée à début pédiatrique). Ce centre de référence multi-site inclut les équipes de dermatologie d'Angers, de Cochin, de Dijon, de Necker, de Robert-Debré et de Tours, ce dernier site ayant la valence « malformations vasculaires et mosaïques ».

## II- REVUE SYSTÉMATIQUE DE LA LITTÉRATURE ET MÉTA-ANALYSE

### 1. Résumé en français

*Contexte* : Les inhibiteurs de mTOR (*mammalian target of rapamycin*) sont actuellement utilisés par voie systémique dans de nombreuses indications. Leur utilisation par voie topique est récente et peu codifiée, probablement du fait de l'absence de formulation commercialisée.

*Objectif* : L'objectif de ce travail a été d'évaluer l'efficacité et la tolérance des inhibiteurs de mTOR par voie topique dans toutes les utilisations dermatologiques recensées, en réalisant une revue systématique de la littérature avec méta-analyse si possible.

*Méthodes* : La recherche documentaire a été faite sur MEDLINE via PubMed, CENTRAL, LILACS, et EMBASE en Janvier 2017. Elle a porté sur tout article original, quelle que soit la langue, rapportant l'utilisation topique d'inhibiteurs de mTOR chez l'humain, dans toutes les pathologies dermatologiques. Etaient exclus les articles rapportant une utilisation par voie systémique ou une utilisation sur les muqueuses. La sélection et l'extraction des données ont été faites par des doublons indépendants. L'évaluation des risques de biais a été réalisée selon les recommandations de la Cochrane (*the Cochrane Collaboration risk of bias tool*).

L'efficacité du traitement a été exprimée en risque relatif (RR) avec des intervalles de confiance (IC) à 95%.

*Résultats* : La recherche initiale a identifié 1042 articles ; pour 48 d'entre eux, le texte intégral a été analysé. Nous avons finalement inclus 40 études dans notre revue systématique (262 patients) : 7 essais randomisés contrôlés incluant 134 patients et 33 cas cliniques/séries de cas totalisant 128 patients. L'âge moyen était de 23,9 ans, dont 124 enfants et 93 adultes (45 données manquantes). Onze pathologies dermatologiques différentes étaient étudiées, la plus fréquente étant les angiofibromes faciaux liés à la sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville (STB), impliquant 157 patients. Le sirolimus topique était le produit utilisé dans toutes les publications sauf une (évérolimus). Il était significativement plus efficace que le placebo pour

les angiofibromes faciaux (RR, 2,52, 95% IC [1,27; 5,00];  $I^2 = 0\%$ ) sur le critère de jugement de l'efficacité auto-rapportée, seul critère analysable en méta-analyse. La concentration médiane de sirolimus dans la formulation était de 0,1%, avec une application médiane de 1 fois par jour. La durée médiane du traitement était de 12 semaines. Les inhibiteurs de mTOR topiques étaient globalement bien tolérés, avec uniquement des effets secondaires locaux légers ou modérés, principalement de type irritatif (picotement, sécheresse, prurit localisé). Le dosage de sirolimus sanguin était négatif chez 153/170 patients (90%). Lorsque la concentration de sirolimus sanguine était détectée, elle était toujours inférieure à celle requise pour obtenir une immunosuppression (4 ng/ml).

*Conclusions* : Cette revue systématique de la littérature avec méta-analyse montre l'efficacité du sirolimus topique dans les angiofibromes faciaux liées à la STB, chez les adultes et les enfants, avec uniquement des effets secondaires locaux rapportés. Les autres indications nécessitent des études supplémentaires.



## 2. Article scientifique en anglais

### **Topical use of mammalian target of rapamycin inhibitors in dermatology: a systematic review with meta-analysis**

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## **Abstract**

*Background:* Systemic mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) inhibitors are currently used in many dermatological indications. Their topical use is recent and poorly codified, probably because of no marketed formulation.

*Objective:* A systematic review to provide an overview of the topical use of all mTOR inhibitors in dermatologic conditions and a meta-analysis to evaluate efficacy and safety.

*Data Sources:* A literature search of MEDLINE via PubMed, CENTRAL, LILACS, and EMBASE was performed in January 2017 for articles of topical mTOR inhibitor use whatever the language.

*Study Selection:* Reports of all studies investigating the use of topical mTOR inhibitors in humans in any dermatology diseases were included. Exclusion criteria were systemic use and mucosal administration.

*Data Extraction and Synthesis:* Two authors independently reviewed publications to determine eligibility. Risk of bias was assessed by using the Cochrane Collaboration Risk of Bias tool.

*Main Outcomes and Measures:* Therapy effects (patient self-assessment) were expressed in terms of risk ratio (RRs) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs).

*Results:* The initial search yielded 1 042 records; for 48 of these, the full text was screened. We included 40 studies in the systematic review (262 patients); 7 randomized controlled trials included 134 patients and 33 case reports and case studies included 128 patients. Mean age was 23.9 years, 124 were children and 93 were adults (45 missing data). Eleven dermatologic conditions were found, the most frequent being facial angiofibromas linked to tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) (157 patients). Topical mTOR inhibitors were significantly more efficient than placebo for angiofibromas (RR, 2.52, 95% CI [1.27; 5.00];  $I^2 = 0\%$ ). Overall, 39

reports described the use of sirolimus and 1 everolimus. The median concentration of sirolimus was 0.1%, with a median application of 1 per day. Median treatment duration was 12 weeks. Topical mTOR inhibitors were well tolerated, with only mild or moderate local side effects reported, mostly irritative (stinging, dryness, itching). Sirolimus blood level was not detected in 153/170 (90%) patients.

*Conclusions and Relevance:* This systematic review and meta-analysis supports the efficacy of topical sirolimus in adults and children for facial angiofibromas linked to TSC, with only local side effects reported. Other indications require further research.

## Introduction

Mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) inhibitors are systemic drugs used in various conditions. mTOR is a serine/threonine protein kinase that belongs to the phosphoinositide-3 kinase (PI3K)-related kinase family.<sup>1</sup> It is a catalytic subunit of two biochemically distinct complexes called mTORC1 and mTORC2. mTORC1 controls cell autonomous growth in response to nutrient availability and growth factors, whereas mTORC2 mediates cell proliferation and cell survival.<sup>2,3</sup> mTOR inhibitors include sirolimus (also called rapamycin), which was first developed in the 1990s, and rapalogs such as everolimus, temsirolimus and deforolimus. Sirolimus is currently approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for preventing allograft rejection in renal transplantation<sup>4</sup>. It is also used to treat renal and brain tumors linked to tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC)<sup>5</sup>; in addition, sirolimus-eluting coronary stents have been marketed.<sup>6</sup> Rapalogs are mainly used in therapies for various cancers.<sup>7-10</sup>

Oral sirolimus is increasingly used in dermatologic conditions, especially vascular tumors and complicated vascular malformations, because of its antiproliferative and anti-angiogenic and -lymphangiogenic properties.<sup>11-15</sup> For very superficial cutaneous anomalies, topical sirolimus administration has been tested since 2010, especially for facial angiofibromas linked to TSC.<sup>16</sup>

The molecular weight of sirolimus is 914.17 Dalton, which is a high weight and does not easily allow percutaneous absorption.<sup>17</sup> Currently, topical sirolimus is increasingly being tested in varied cutaneous conditions, such as cutaneous vascular malformations or inflammatory diseases.<sup>18,19</sup> Topical applications of the drug seem safe, but topical sirolimus is not yet marketed, and modalities of its use are heterogeneous, with widespread uncontrolled use.

The aim of this systematic review was to provide an overview of the dermatologic indications of topical mTOR inhibitors, with a meta-analysis aggregating data from randomized trials to estimate their efficacy and safety.

## **Methods**

PRISMA guidelines were followed for reporting.

### ***Search strategy***

We searched electronic databases including MEDLINE via PubMed, CENTRAL, LILACS, and EMBASE from inception to January 2017 by using the terms “mTOR inhibitor”, “sirolimus”, “rapamycin”, “everolimus”, “TOR serine-threonine kinases/antagonists”, combined with “topical”, “local”, “ointment”, “cream”, “topical administration”, “skin cream” and “gels”.

### ***Inclusion and exclusion criteria***

We included all original reports (study, case series, case reports and correspondence) whatever the language, describing use of any topical mTOR inhibitor, alone or in association with other treatments, in any cutaneous condition, in humans. Reports of systemic use and mucosal administration (oral or conjunctival) were excluded, as were reports with non-extractable data (on drug or condition).

### ***Study selection strategy***

According to the pre-defined criteria, 2 authors (SL, AM) independently selected studies based on their title and abstract. Any disagreements were resolved by consensus. The 2 authors then examined the full texts of articles. In case of duplicates, the most complete report was chosen.

### ***Data extraction***

Two authors (SL, AM) extracted data by using a standardized extraction file. The following data were extracted from each report: first author, publication year, journal, country/site, study design, demographic characteristics of patients, condition, type of mTOR inhibitor, regime, concentration and duration of treatment, drug efficacy and side effects, blood level of mTOR inhibitor, co-interventions and follow-up. Any disagreements in extraction were resolved by consensus.

### ***Quality and risk of bias assessment***

Two authors (SL, AM) independently assessed the risk of bias of each randomized controlled trial (RCT) by using the Cochrane Collaboration Risk of Bias tool.<sup>20</sup> The following sources of bias were considered: random sequence generation, allocation concealment, blinding of participants and personnel, blinding of outcome assessment, incomplete outcome data, and selective reporting. In case of disagreement, a methodologist (ET) gave the final decision.

### ***Statistical analyses***

Descriptive data are expressed with median and quartiles (Q1; Q3) for quantitative data and number (%) for categorical data. A meta-analysis was planned if we could pool data from randomized controlled trials (RCTs). For missing data, the first author was contacted. Relative risk of self-reported improvement was the primary measure of treatment effect. The meta-analysis was performed by computing relative risks (RRs) using random-effects model. RR and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were calculated. Heterogeneity of results across RCTs was assessed by the Q and I<sup>2</sup> statistics, and any heterogeneity was predefined as p < 0.05 for the Q statistic or I<sup>2</sup> value ≥ 50%. Statistical analyses involved use of R v3.3.1 and SAS 9.4 (SAS Inst. Inc., Cary, NC).

## **Results**

### ***Characteristics of included reports (Table 1)***

Our systematic search of the literature identified 1 042 reports describing use of topical mTOR inhibitors in dermatologic conditions. We included 40 reports of studies involving 262 patients (Figure 1) that were published between 2005 and 2017: 33 were observational studies (n=128 patients) and 7 were RCTs (n=134 patients). Nineteen reports were from Europe, 10 from the United States, 9 from Asia and 2 from Oceania. The median [Q1; Q3] age of participants was 25.5 years [12; 33]; 124/246 (50.4%) were male.

Eleven dermatologic conditions were identified, including tumors (angiofibromas, subungual fibromas and hypomelanotic macules linked to TSC, fibrofolliculomas, trichoepitheliomas, familial discoid fibromas, Kaposi's sarcoma), inflammatory diseases (psoriasis plaques, lichen planus) and vascular malformations (port-wine stain [PWS] and cutaneous microcystic lymphatic malformations). Among the 40 reports, 39 reported the use of sirolimus and 1 everolimus. Sirolimus formulations were described as ointments for 90 patients (37.8%), creams for 58 (24.4%), gels for 38 (16.0%) and solutions for 52 (21.9%). Formulations were not detailed for 24 patients.

### ***Assessment of risk of bias***

Figure 2 summarizes the assessment of risk of bias of the 7 RCTs, including the 2 on angiofibromas which were meta-analyzed.

### ***Results for efficacy***

Detailed data on each study are provided in Supplemental File 1.

### ***Angiofibromas in TSC***

Overall, 26 reports (157 patients) described the use of a topical mTOR inhibitor for angiofibromas in TSC (3 RCTs and 23 observational studies).<sup>16,17,21-44</sup> Among 141 patients,

100 (70.9%) were children and 66 (46.8%) were male. Median age was 14.5 years [11; 38]. One case involved everolimus.<sup>26</sup> The median mTOR inhibitor concentration was 0.1% [0.1; 0.2], with a median number of 2 applications per day. The median treatment time was 16 weeks [12; 24]. Clinical criteria considering efficacy were heterogenous and were mainly the Facial Angiofibroma Severity Index (FASI)<sup>45</sup> and physician assessment. Topical mTOR inhibitors were reported as efficient in 115/121 (95.0%) patients. Follow-up data were available for 20 patients; 18 experienced recurrence between 2 and 12 weeks after withdrawal of the drug.<sup>24,27,33-35</sup>

We pooled data from 2 RCTs (n=39 patients treated/ n=59 patients included) comparing patient self-assessment of efficacy of topical sirolimus versus placebo in angiofibromas linked to TSC. In the third RCT on angiofibromas, this criteria was not mentioned and there was no additional common outcome. In the meta-analysis, topical sirolimus use was associated with improved patient self-assessment (RR=2.52, 95% CI [1.27;5.00]). There was no evidence of heterogeneity ( $I^2=0\%$ ) (Figure 3).

#### *Hypomelanotic macules and subungual fibromas linked to TSC*

Two reports described the benefit of topical sirolimus 0.2% applied twice daily for 12 weeks in 7 of 8 patients with hypomelanotic macules linked to TSC.<sup>46,47</sup> One report described the complete regression of subungual fibromas after 6 months' daily application of topical sirolimus 0.1%, with no recurrence after 6-month follow-up.<sup>48</sup>

#### *Benign cutaneous tumors*

One double-blind, split-body, facial left-right controlled trial evaluated 0.1% sirolimus solution applied twice daily for 6 months for facial fibromas in 19 patients with Birt-Hogg-Dubé syndrome and showed no significant improvement with sirolimus in size or number of fibromas.<sup>49</sup> Sirolimus 1% was also tested in 2 children with multiple familial



trichoepithelioma syndrome and led to reduced growth of new lesions after 24 and 48 weeks.<sup>50</sup> Also, one case report described a 27-year-old man with familial multiple discoid fibromas treated with 0.1% sirolimus solution applied once daily for 16 weeks, with reduced size of lesions and redness.<sup>51</sup>

#### *Kaposi's sarcoma*

One case report described a 73-year-old man with Kaposi's sarcoma without HIV infection that was treated with 0.5% sirolimus ointment applied twice daily.<sup>52</sup> Clinically and histologically, lesions disappeared at 16 weeks, with no recurrence after 2-year follow-up.

#### *Inflammatory skin diseases*

One vehicle-controlled, split-body RCT included 24 patients with chronic plaque psoriasis; 2.2% topical sirolimus was applied once daily for 6 weeks and 8% topical sirolimus for 6 additional weeks.<sup>19</sup> Results showed a slight improvement with treatment versus vehicle at 12 weeks (mean composite score assessing erythema, thickness and scaling of 9.1/24 vs 11.2/24,  $p=0.032$ ). One case report of a 79-year-old male with plantar erosive lichen planus treated with 0.1% sirolimus solution applied once daily during 20 weeks<sup>53</sup> showed a significant reduction in pain after 4 weeks and lesions healed after 20 weeks.

#### *Vascular malformations*

Four reports (2 RCTs and 2 observational studies) involving 47 patients described the efficacy of topical sirolimus for PWS.<sup>54-57</sup> Median age was 33 years [29; 33]; 16/47 (34.0%) were male. In all studies, sirolimus was used as adjunct therapy to pulsed dye laser (PDL) treatment. The median concentration of sirolimus in topical formulation was 1% [0.1; 1], with a median of 1 application per day. Efficacy outcomes were heterogenous (physician assessment, colorimetric or digital photographic image scores). In the observational studies, sirolimus as add-on treatment to PDL seemed efficient in 2 out of 7 patients.<sup>54,56</sup> In the RCTs,

when the outcome was assessed with colorimetric tools,<sup>55</sup> percentage clearance did not differ between PDL and placebo versus PDL with topical sirolimus. When the outcome was a digital photographic image score, the scores were lower with PDL and topical sirolimus than PDL and placebo.<sup>57</sup> Data could not be aggregated because assessment outcomes differed in the 2 RCTs. In one case report, a man in his 20s who had cutaneous microcystic lymphatic malformation (lymphangiectasias) of the scrotum and penile root treated with 0.8% sirolimus petrolatum applied twice daily for 12 weeks showed nearly complete regression.<sup>18</sup>

### ***Results for safety***

#### *Adverse effects*

Safety data were reported in 37/40 reports, and 120 adverse effects (AEs) were reported. The number of patients who experienced AEs could not be calculated because usually only the number of AEs was reported. Among 212 patients with individual available data, 50 (23.6%) experienced at least one AE. In one study, a general AE was reported (respiratory sepsis) but was not considered linked to sirolimus because blood sirolimus was undetectable.<sup>31</sup> In other reports, only local AEs were described. The most frequent was irritation (n=82, 68.3%), pruritus (n=17, 14.2%), facial acne (n=8, 6.7%), topical allergy (n=5, 4.2%), transient numbness (n=4, 3.3%), sores (n=3, 2.5%) and herpes infections (n=1, 0.8%). The nomenclature for irritative AEs was heterogeneous (stinging, burning, irritation, erythema etc.). Among these 120 AEs, 57 were reported with use of sirolimus solution (47.5%). Regarding biological side effects, 1 of the 12 reports (n=134 patients) describing lab tests performed showed slight abnormalities, consisting of a slight increase in levels of transaminases (n=4), blood glucose (n=4), creatine kinase (n=4) and amylase (n=2) that were not considered related to topical sirolimus.<sup>19</sup>

#### *Systemic passage of sirolimus*

Detection of the blood level of sirolimus was described in 22 reports (n=170 patients).

Overall, 17 patients were positive for blood sirolimus concentration, but in all cases, blood levels were below the level required for immunosuppression (5 ng/ml).<sup>4,13</sup> The highest blood sirolimus concentration was 3.39 ng/ml after 6-week treatment with 0.1% sirolimus applied once daily on facial PWS previously treated with PDL.<sup>57</sup>

## **Discussion**

### ***Main results***

Our systematic review included 40 reports involving 262 patients who received topical application of mTOR inhibitors. Sirolimus was used in all patients except one who received everolimus. Eleven dermatologic conditions were found, the most frequent being facial angiofibromas linked to TSC, for which treatment seemed efficient. Children were more represented (57.1%) than were adults. Local AEs were frequent (120 AEs in 262 patients), mainly consisting of local irritation (n=82), and seemed related to the formulation rather than sirolimus concentration. Sirolimus was detected in blood in 10.0% of patients analyzed and in all cases were below the level required for immunosuppression.

### ***Comments***

Topical sirolimus is mainly used in facial angiofibromas in TSC, for which it seems efficient, and has also been tried in other anomalies linked to TSC. Indeed, TSC results from mutations in the TSC1 and TSC2 genes leading to overactivation of the mTOR signaling pathway, which controls cell functions including cell growth, proliferation, and survival.<sup>1</sup> Several reports suggested that in this indication, topical sirolimus was more effective in young than old patients, but this was not evidenced in our review.<sup>17,21,28,29,35,36,41,43</sup> The underlying hypothesis is that sirolimus would be efficient in proliferative tumors with less fibrosis.

The second most frequent indication is PWS, for which topical sirolimus is usually given as an adjunct to PDL to minimize post-laser revascularization, and seems more efficient than without PDL. Indeed, sirolimus has anti-angiogenic properties by downregulating hypoxia-inducible factor 1 $\alpha$ , a transcriptional factor that regulates vascular endothelial growth factor expression.<sup>58</sup> However, efficacy was variable in studies, which could be explained by the different locations of PWS,<sup>54</sup> perhaps too-short treatment duration,<sup>54</sup> or local AEs that may affect compliance.<sup>55</sup>

Besides its use for these 2 main indications, topical sirolimus has been anecdotally reported in other dermatologic conditions and seems promising for subungual fibromas and lymphangiectasias. Clinical trials should be conducted to confirm the efficiency.

This review showed heterogeneity of the treatment regime in terms of concentration, number of applications per day and duration. This high heterogeneity is linked to lack of a marketed drug. The most frequent regimen was 0.1% sirolimus, with 1 or 2 applications per day for 12 weeks. Topical sirolimus is produced with the sirolimus used for oral administration, which is available in solution (1 mg/ml) and tablets (1, 2 and 5 mg). Thus, sirolimus in tablet, solution and powder form can be combined with ointment, cream and gel to obtain a topical preparation. Different solvents were used in reports. Bouguéon et al. developed a 0.1% sirolimus cream formulation with solubilized sirolimus that allowed for immediate bioavailability of the active molecule.<sup>59</sup> Sirolimus has been solubilized in a solvent (Transcutol®), which is an excellent permeation agent that enhances drug diffusion through the skin.<sup>59</sup>

Topical sirolimus was generally well tolerated; most symptoms reported by patients were mild to moderate irritation limited to the site of application. Local side effects were not linked to concentration of sirolimus but were more frequent with sirolimus solution. We found no

systemic AEs related to the treatment. Indeed, in this systematic review, we found a positive blood sirolimus concentration in only 10.0% of patients with the dosage, both in children and adults, with different concentrations, frequencies of application per day and formulations. In all cases, blood levels were below the level required for immunosuppression. Sirolimus has a high molecular weight, 914.17 Dalton<sup>17</sup>, which allows for diffusion limited to the skin. In contrast, betamethasone has a molecular weight of 392.467 Dalton. However, absorption could be enhanced by additional physical treatment, PDL for instance, or with wide surface application. The surface area of application was never indicated in any studies.

Sirolimus was the mTOR inhibitor used in all patients, except one, who used everolimus.<sup>26</sup> This high use is probably due to sirolimus being the oldest mTOR inhibitor, with a well-known safety profile and better penetration of the skin. However, Dill et al. chose everolimus because of presumed advantages (better water solubility because of its additional hydroxy group and shorter half-life). An RCT is ongoing in France to assess everolimus for facial angiofibromas in TSC versus placebo (ClinicalTrials.gov NCT02860494).

Finally, long-term maintenance therapy might be necessary, but in our reports, data on recurrence after treatment were too few to assess the frequency and time to recurrence.

### ***Study limitations***

The first limitation is that most RCT data could not be pooled for meta-analysis. Criteria for assessing efficacy were heterogeneous: only a few studies used objective scoring systems (eg FASI); most used subjective criteria (cosmetic improvement). Second, the systematic review showed 95.0% efficacy of a topical mTOR inhibitor for facial angiofibromas in TSC, which might be overestimated. Indeed, reports showing treatments as effective are usually published as compared with negative reports (publication bias). Third, formulations of topical sirolimus, concentrations, duration and monitoring were heterogeneous, so comparisons were difficult.

## Conclusions

This systematic review and meta-analysis supports the efficacy of topical sirolimus in adults and children for facial angiofibromas linked to TSC. The treatment appears to be safe and non-invasive but locally often irritative, especially when using solutions. Other indications require further research.

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**Abbreviations used:**

AEs: adverse effects

CI: confidence intervals

FASI: facial angiofibroma severity index

mTOR: mammalian target of rapamycin

PDL: pulsed dye laser

PWS: port wine stain

RCT: randomized controlled trial

RRs: risk ratios

TSC: tuberous sclerosis complex

## Tables

Table I: Characteristics of reports included in systematic review

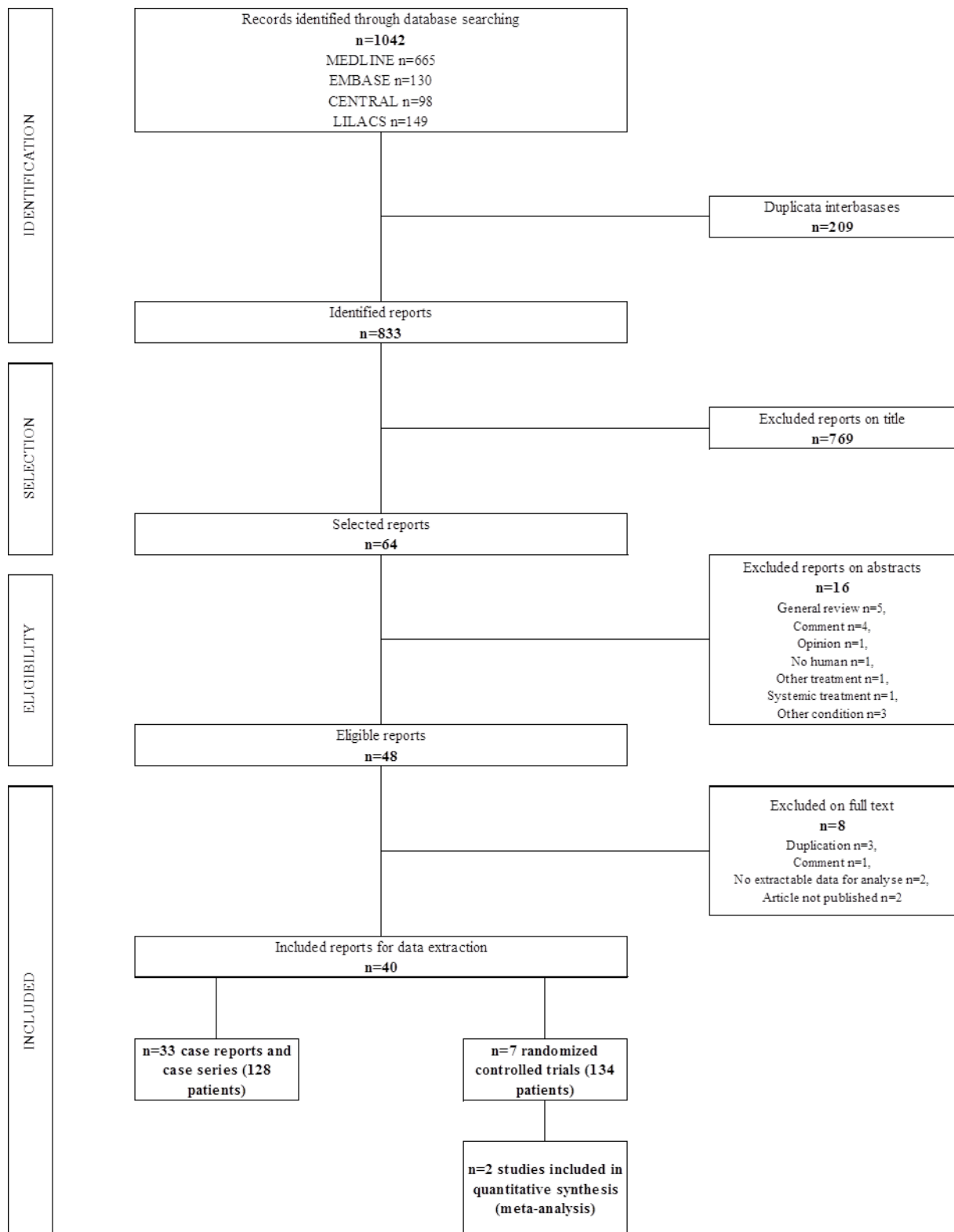
Indications		Total number of publications (number of RCTs)	Total number of patients (number of patients included in RCTs)	Median of drug concentration in % [IQR]	Duration of treatment median of weeks [IQR]
<i>Angiofibromas in TSC</i>	Angiofibromas	26 (3)	157 (51)	0.1 [0.1;0.2]	16 [12;24]
<i>Hypomelanotic macules and subungual fibromas linked to TSC</i>	Hypomelanotic macules	2 (0)	8 (0)	0.2	12
	Subungual fibromas	1 (0)	1 (0)	0.1	24
<i>Benign cutaneous tumors</i>	Fibrofolliculomas	1 (1)	19 (19)	0.1	24
	Trichoepitheliomas	1 (0)	2 (0)	1	38 [24;48]
	FMDF	1 (0)	1 (0)	0.1	16
<i>Kaposi's sarcoma</i>	Kaposi's sarcoma	1 (0)	1 (0)	0.5	16
<i>Inflammatory skin diseases</i>	Chronic plaque psoriasis	1 (1)	24 (24)	2.2 then 8	12
	Lichen plan	1 (0)	1 (0)	0.1	20
<i>Vascular malformations</i>	Port wine stains	4 (2)	47 (40)	1 [0.1;1]	11 [10;12]
	CMLM	1 (0)	1 (0)	0.8	12

*Abbreviations*

effective.  
 CMLM: cutaneous microcystic lymphatic malformation  
 FMDF: familial multiples discoid fibromas  
 IQR: interquartile range  
 RCTs: randomized controlled trials  
 TSC: Tuberous Sclerosis Complex





Median and IQR were not mentioned in case of small

## Figures

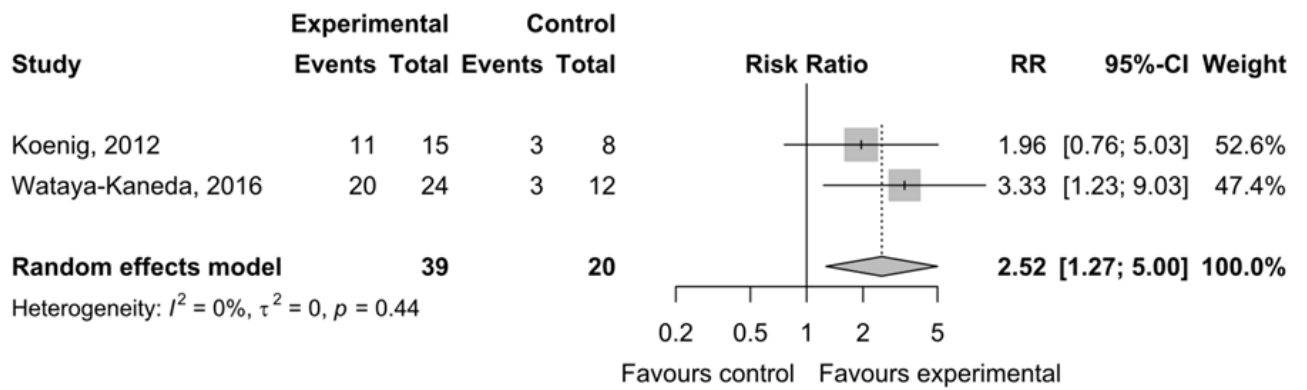


**Figure 1. Flow chart of included reports**



	Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias)	Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias)	Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)	Selective reporting (reporting bias)
Cinar et al., 2016						
Gijezen et al., 2014						
Greveling et al., 2016						
Koenig et al., 2012						
Marques et al., 2014						
Ormerod et al., 2005						
Wataya et al., 2016						

**Figure 2. Risk of bias assessment of the included RCTs by the Cochrane Risk of Bias tool**



**Figure 3. Forest plot showing the effect of topical sirolimus in facial angiofibromas linked to tuberous sclerosis complex**

## Supplemental files.

### Supplemental file 1: Reports on topical mTOR inhibitors in dermatology

Conditions	Author (year)	Patients (demographic data)	Study design	Description of intervention (duration in weeks)	Outcome assessment (number of patients who experienced improvement)	Adverse effects (number of adverse effects)	Blood sirolimus level
Angiofibromas in tuberous sclerosis complex	Amin S. <i>et al.</i> (2017)	n=14 (9 children M: 7 Median age: 16 Y)	Prospective observational study	Sirolimus ointment 0.1% Once daily (24)	FASI (12/14)	Irritation (n=1)	NR
	Bae Harboe YS. <i>et al.</i> (2013)	n=1 (0 child M: 0 26 Y)	Case report	Sirolimus ointment 0.2% Twice daily In adjunction of physical treatments (12)	PA (1/1)	None	NR
	Bloemen-Boot MCT. <i>et al.</i> (2014)	n=10 (10 children M: 6 Median age: 10.5 Y)	Retrospective study	Sirolimus cream and solution 0.01. 0.02 or 0.1% Once daily (NR)	PA (10/10)	Irritation (n=5) and prurit (n=1)	NR
	Cinar SL. <i>et al.</i> (2017)	n=12 (12 children M: 7 7-14 Y)	Single-blinded, cross-over and split-body, non-randomized controlled trial (control: vehicle)	Sirolimus cream 0.1% Twice daily (12)	FASI (5.17 +/- 1.34 after 3 months vs 7.58 +/- 0.90 at the beginning (p=0.002))	Irritation (n=3)	-
	De Klotz CMC. <i>et al.</i> (2011)	n=1 (NR)	Case report	Sirolimus ointment 1% Twice daily (4)	PA (1/1)	NR	NR
	Dill PE. <i>et al.</i> (2014)	n=1 (1 child M: 0 10 Y)	Case report	Everolimus ointment 0.4% Once daily (24)	PA (1/1)	Irritation (n=1)	Undetectable
	Ebrahimi D. <i>et al.</i> (2017)	n=1 (1 child M: 0 12 Y)	Case report	Sirolimus ointment 0.1% Twice daily (48)	PA (1/1)	None	Undetectable
	Foster RS. <i>et al.</i> (2012)	n=4 (4 children M: 2 Median age : 6 Y)	Case series	Sirolimus (solution for 2 patients and ointment for 2 patients) 0.1% Twice daily (24)	PA and PRO (4/4)	Irritation (n=2)	Detectable (n=1/4) [0.8 mmol/l]
	Haemel AK. <i>et al.</i> (2010)	n=1 (1 child M: 0 16 Y)	Case report	Sirolimus ointment 1% Twice daily (12)	PA (1/1)	None	Undetectable

Kaufman Mc Namara E. <i>et al.</i> (2012)	n=1 (1 child M: 1 6 Y)	Case report	Sirolimus cream 0.1% Once daily (12)	PA (1/1)	None	NR
Knopfel N. <i>et al.</i> (2014)	n=1 (1 child M: 1 13 Y)	Case report	Sirolimus ointment 0.2% Once daily 5 days a week (48)	PA (1/1)	None	Undetectable
Koenig MK. <i>et al.</i> (2012)	n=28 (8 children M: 15 Mean age: 23 Y)	Double-blinded, parallel, RCT (control: vehicle)	Sirolimus cream 0.003% or 0.015% Once daily (24)	PRO (11/15)	None (One unrelated serious general adverse event)	Undetectable
Mutizwa MM. <i>et al.</i> (2011)	n=2 (1 child M: 0 15 and 26 Y)	Case report	Sirolimus solution 0.1% Twice daily (10 and 23)	PA (2/2)	Irritation (n=2)	Undetectable
Park J. <i>et al.</i> (2014)	n=4 (1 child M: 1 Median age : 29 Y)	Case series	Sirolimus ointment 0.1% Twice daily In adjunction of CO <sub>2</sub> laser (n=3) (12 to 16)	PA (4/4)	None	Undetectable
Pynn EV. <i>et al.</i> (2015)	n=2 (2 children M: 2 8 and 11 Y)	Case report	Sirolimus ointment 0.1% Once daily (20 and 36)	PA (2/2)	Irritation (n=1)	NR
Rodrigo-Nicolas B. <i>et al.</i> (2014)	n=4 (0 child M: 3 Median age: 44 Y)	Case series	Sirolimus ointment 1% Twice daily (12)	FASI (reduction of FASI at 3 months of 34. 11. 11 and 11.5% with an average of 16.9%) PRO (3/4)	Irritation (n=1)	-
Salido R. <i>et al.</i> (2012)	n=10 (7 children M: 5 Median age: 13 Y)	Prospective observational study	Sirolimus ointment 0.4% Once daily 3 days a week (36)	FASI (mean decrease value 60.2% [34.3-100])	None	Undetectable
Tanaka M. <i>et al.</i> (2013)	n=11 (7 children M: 7 Median age: 13 Y)	Open-labelled, split body, non-randomized controlled trial (control: vehicle)	Sirolimus ointment or gel 0.2% Twice daily (12)	3 outcome measures: redness, papule size and flatness scoring from -2 to 4 ( the averages of patients for all outcome measures were > 2 and significantly higher on the rapamycin-treated cheek at the end of treatment)	None	Undetectable
Truchuelo T. <i>et al.</i> (2012)	n=1 (1 child M: 0 11 Y)	Case report	Sirolimus cream 1% Once daily (6)	PA (1/1)	None	Undetectable
Tu J. <i>et al.</i> (2014)	n=19 (18 children M: 13 Median age: 10.5 Y)	Retrospective study	Sirolimus ointment or solution 0.1%, 0.5% or 1% Twice daily (32 to 120)	PA (17/19 good or excellent improvement and 2/19 moderate improvement)	Irritation (n=2)	Detectable (n=2/10) [0.5 and 0.8 ng/ml]
Valerón-Almazan P. <i>et al.</i> (2012)	n=1 (0 child M: 0 27 Y)	Case report	Sirolimus solution 0.1% Twice daily (12)	PA (1/1)	None	NR

	Vasani RJ. <i>et al.</i> (2015)	n=1 (1 child M: 0 17 Y)	Case report	Sirolimus ointment 0.1% Twice daily (12) Then 1% sirolimus ointment twice daily (4)	PA (1/1)	None	-
	Viswanath V. <i>et al.</i> (2016)	n=5 (3 children M: 0 Median age: 11 Y)	Case series	Sirolimus ointment 0.1% or 1% Twice daily (4 to 24)	FASI (5/5)	None	NR
	Wataya-Kaneda M. <i>et al.</i> (2011)	n=9 (5 children M: 3 Median age: 17 Y)	Open-labelled split body non-randomized controlled trial (control: tacrolimus)	Sirolimus ointment 0.2% In adjunction of topical tacrolimus Twice daily (12)	3 outcome measures: redness, papule size and flatness scoring from 0 to 4 (all the scores significantly improved with sirolimus and tacrolimus compared with the side treated with tacrolimus alone)	None	Undetectable
	Wataya-Kaneda M. <i>et al.</i> (2017)	n=36 (18 children M: 17 Median age: 40 Y)	Double-blinded, parallel, RCT (control: placebo)	Sirolimus gel 0.05%, 0.1% or 0.2% Twice daily (12)	Improvement factor (primary outcome): statistically significant in all treatment subgroups except the 0.1% and 0.05% sirolimus adult subgroups	Intervention: irritation (n=20) Control: irritation (n=4)	Detectable (n=10/24) [ $\leq$ 0.25 ng/mL]
	Wheless JW. <i>et al.</i> (2013)	n=2 (2 children M: 1 10 and 12 Y)	Case report	Sirolimus cream 0.1% Twice daily for 2 weeks and then once daily (48)	PA (2/2)	None	Undetectable
Hypomelanotic macules in tuberous sclerosis complex	Wataya-Kaneda M. <i>et al.</i> (2012)	n=2 (2 children M: 2 2 and 8 Y)	Case report	Sirolimus gel 0.2% Twice daily (12)	PA (2/2)	None	Undetectable
	Wataya-Kaneda M. <i>et al.</i> (2015)	n=6 (M: 4 Mean age: 11.7 Y)	Prospective observational study	Sirolimus gel 0.2% Twice daily (12)	Spectrophotometry assessment (5/6)	None	Undetectable
Subungual fibromas in tuberous sclerosis complex	Muzic JG. <i>et al.</i> (2014)	n=1 (1 child M: 0 Age NR)	Case report	Sirolimus solution 0.1% Twice daily (24)	PA (1/1)	None	NR
Fibrofolliculomas in Birt-Hogg-Dubé syndrome	Gijzen LMC. <i>et al.</i> (2014)	n=19 (0 child M: 13 Mean age: 52 Y)	Double-blinded, split-body, RCT (control: placebo)	Sirolimus solution 0.1% Twice daily (24)	PA (2/19)	Irritation (n=29), pruritus (n=3)	NR
Trichoepitheliomas	Tu JH. <i>et al.</i> (2017)	n=2 (2 children M: 1 8 and 6 Y)	Case report	Sirolimus cream 1% Twice daily In adjunction of laser CO <sub>2</sub> (n=1) (24 and 48 weeks)	PA (2/2)	None	NR
Familial multiple discoid fibromas	Wee JS. <i>et al.</i> (2013)	n=1 (0 child M: 1 27 Y)	Case report	Sirolimus solution 0.1% Once daily (16)	PA (1/1)	Irritation (n=1) with 2 applications per day	Undetectable

Kaposi's sarcoma	Diaz-Ley B. <i>et al.</i> (2014)	n=1 (0 child M: 1 73 Y)	Case report	Sirolimus ointment 0.5% Twice daily (16)	PA (1/1) Pathologic examinations (no residual tumors cells)	Pruritus (n=1)	Undetectable
Chronic plaque psoriasis	Ormerod AD. <i>et al.</i> (2004)	n=24 (0 child M: 18 Mean age: 47.5 Y)	Double-blinded, split body, RCT (control: vehicle)	Sirolimus ointment 2.2% (for 6 weeks) then 8% (for 6 weeks) Once daily (12)	Assessment by clinical score from 0 to 8 on erythema, thickening and scaling (mean score was 9.1 in group sirolimus and 11.2 in group control (p=0.032))	Topical allergy (n=2), increase of transaminases (n=4), blood glucose (n=4), creatine kinase (n=4) and amylase (n=2)	Undetectable
Plantar erosive lichen planus	Munidasa D. <i>et al.</i> (2012)	n=1 (0 child M: 1 79 Y)	Case report	Sirolimus solution 0.1% Once daily (20)	PA and PRO (1/1)	NR	NR
Port-wine stains	Doh EJ. <i>et al.</i> (2017)	n=6 (0 child M: 0 Median age: 26 Y)	Open labelled, split body, non-randomized controlled trial (control: PDL + vehicle)	PDL + sirolimus solution 1% Once daily (1 to 8)	Colorimeter assessment (change in erythema was -2.10 (SD=2.81) for PDL alone, -3.28 (SD=2.39) for PDL with rapamycin for 1 week and -3.12 (SD=2.66) for PDL with rapamycin for 8 weeks. The difference was not statistically significant (p=0.43)) PA (1/6)	None	NR
	Greveling K. <i>et al.</i> (2017)	n=17 (0 child M: 4 Median age: 29 Y)	Open-labelled split body RCT (control: PDL and PDL + laser Yag)	Sirolimus solution alone, or sirolimus + PDL or sirolimus + PDL + laser YAG 0.1% Once a week (10)	Colorimeter assessment (PDL (16%, SD=34) with PDL + rapamycin (8%, SD=29), p=0.21.	Pruritus (n=12) Topical allergy (n=1)	Detectable (n=2/9) 2.1 ng/ml and 2.2 ng/ml
	Griffin TD. <i>et al.</i> (2016)	n=1 (0 child M: 1 56 Y)	Case report	Sirolimus ointment with PDL 0.5% Twice daily (ND)	PA (1/1)	NR	NR
	Marques et L. <i>et al.</i> (2015)	n=23 (children NR M: 11 Median age: 33 Y)	Double blinded, split body, RCT (control: placebo and placebo + PDL)	Sirolimus cream or sirolimus + PDL 1% Once daily (12)	Digital photographic image score (-1.9 for PDL + placebo. -0.7 for placebo. -5.7 for PDL + rapamycin and -0.4 for rapamycin (p<0.001))	Irritation (n=14), facial acne (n=8), transient numbness (n=4), small canker sores (n=3), herpes infections (n=1) and topical allergy (n=1)	Number of patients NR Median blood level [0.69 ng/ml at 6 weeks], [1.07 ng/ml at 12 weeks] [max 3.89 ng/ml]
Cutaneous microcystic lymphatic malformation	Ivars M. <i>et al.</i> (2017)	n=1 (0 child M: 1 20 Y)	Case report	Sirolimus petrolatum 0.8% Once daily (12)	PA (1/1)	None	-

#### Abbreviations

PA: Physician assessment

RCT: Randomized controlled trial

PDL: Pulsed dye laser

NR: Not reported

PRO: Patient-reported outcomes

SD: Standard deviation

M: Male

Y: Year

**Supplemental file 2: PRISMA checklist**

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Reported on page #
<b>TITLE</b>			
Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review, meta-analysis, or both.	25
<b>ABSTRACT</b>			
Structured summary	2	Provide a structured summary including, as applicable: background; objectives; data sources; study eligibility criteria, participants, and interventions; study appraisal and synthesis methods; results; limitations; conclusions and implications of key findings; systematic review registration number.	26-27
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known.	28
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of questions being addressed with reference to participants, interventions, comparisons, outcomes, and study design (PICOS).	29
<b>METHODS</b>			
Protocol and registration	5	Indicate if a review protocol exists, if and where it can be accessed (e.g., Web address), and, if available, provide registration information including registration number.	-
Eligibility criteria	6	Specify study characteristics (e.g., PICOS, length of follow-up) and report characteristics (e.g., years considered, language, publication status) used as criteria for eligibility, giving rationale.	29
Information sources	7	Describe all information sources (e.g., databases with dates of coverage, contact with study authors to identify additional studies) in the search and date last searched.	29
Search	8	Present full electronic search strategy for at least one database, including any limits used, such that it could be repeated.	29
Study selection	9	State the process for selecting studies (i.e., screening, eligibility, included in systematic review, and, if applicable, included in the meta-analysis).	29
Data collection process	10	Describe method of data extraction from reports (e.g., piloted forms, independently, in duplicate) and any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators.	29-30
Data items	11	List and define all variables for which data were sought (e.g., PICOS, funding sources) and any assumptions and simplifications made.	30
Risk of bias in individual studies	12	Describe methods used for assessing risk of bias of individual studies (including specification of whether this was done at the study or outcome level), and how this information is to be used in any data synthesis.	-
Summary measures	13	State the principal summary measures (e.g., risk ratio, difference in means).	30
Synthesis of results	14	Describe the methods of handling data and combining results of studies, if done, including measures of consistency (e.g., $I^2$ ) for each meta-analysis.	30

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Reported on page #
Risk of bias across studies	15	Specify any assessment of risk of bias that may affect the cumulative evidence (e.g., publication bias, selective reporting within studies).	30
Additional analyses	16	Describe methods of additional analyses (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression), if done, indicating which were pre-specified.	-
<b>RESULTS</b>			
Study selection	17	Give numbers of studies screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the review, with reasons for exclusions at each stage, ideally with a flow diagram.	31
Study characteristics	18	For each study, present characteristics for which data were extracted (e.g., study size, PICOS, follow-up period) and provide the citations.	31
Risk of bias within studies	19	Present data on risk of bias of each study and, if available, any outcome level assessment (see item 12).	-
Results of individual studies	20	For all outcomes considered (benefits or harms), present, for each study: (a) simple summary data for each intervention group (b) effect estimates and confidence intervals, ideally with a forest plot.	31-34
Synthesis of results	21	Present results of each meta-analysis done, including confidence intervals and measures of consistency.	32
Risk of bias across studies	22	Present results of any assessment of risk of bias across studies (see Item 15).	31
Additional analysis	23	Give results of additional analyses, if done (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression [see Item 16]).	-
<b>DISCUSSION</b>			
Summary of evidence	24	Summarize the main findings including the strength of evidence for each main outcome; consider their relevance to key groups (e.g., healthcare providers, users, and policy makers).	35-37
Limitations	25	Discuss limitations at study and outcome level (e.g., risk of bias), and at review-level (e.g., incomplete retrieval of identified research, reporting bias).	37
Conclusions	26	Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence, and implications for future research.	38
<b>FUNDING</b>			
Funding	27	Describe sources of funding for the systematic review and other support (e.g., supply of data); role of funders for the systematic review.	25



### III- PROTOCOLE DE RECHERCHE *TOPICAL*

#### 1. Résumé en français

*Rationnel* : Les malformations lymphatiques microkystiques cutanées (MLMC) sont des maladies rares de l'enfant et de l'adulte. Elles se manifestent par des amas de vésicules à contenu clair ou hématiche et peuvent se compliquer de suintements et de saignements réguliers. Actuellement, les traitements pour les MLMC sont décevants et leur prise en charge est difficile. Le sirolimus appartient aux inhibiteurs de mTOR (*mammalian Target Of Rapamycin*) ; mTOR est une sérine/thréonine kinase, impliquée notamment dans l'angio- et la lymphangiogenèse. Le sirolimus topique, qui est efficace et bien toléré pour le traitement des angiofibromes faciaux liés à la sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville, a été récemment rapporté comme un traitement efficace dans quelques cas de MLMC.

*Objectif* : L'objectif de ce protocole est d'évaluer l'efficacité et la tolérance d'un traitement par sirolimus topique 0,1% pendant 12 semaines dans les MLMC chez les adultes et enfants, versus une crème placebo (véhicule).

*Méthodes* : Il s'agit d'une étude de phase 2 multicentrique, en split body, randomisée, contrôlée, en double aveugle visant à inclure 50 patients âgés de plus de 6 ans atteints de MLMC primaire. La MLMC sera divisée en 2 zones égales de sévérité équivalente sur lesquelles sera appliqué le sirolimus topique 0,1% ou le véhicule pour 12 semaines. A la fin des 12 semaines, l'ensemble de la MLMC sera traitée par le sirolimus topique pendant 8 semaines supplémentaires. Le critère de jugement principal consistera en l'évaluation de l'amélioration de la zone de la MLMC traitée par sirolimus topique 0,1% comparativement à la zone traitée par le véhicule, par un investigateur (en aveugle), en utilisant le score PGA (*Physician Global Assessment*), à 12 semaines. La qualité de vie, les suintements et saignements, les retentissements fonctionnel et esthétique seront évalués en critères

secondaires. Le passage systémique du sirolimus sera évalué par un dosage sanguin du sirolimus à 6, 12 et 20 semaines. Les événements indésirables et effets secondaires seront recueillis.

*Discussion* : Pour les patients atteints de MLMC, pathologie rare et sans traitement satisfaisant à ce jour, le sirolimus topique pourrait être une option thérapeutique non invasive et bien tolérée. Si l'étude démontre l'efficacité et la bonne tolérance du sirolimus topique 0,1% chez les patients ayant une MLMC, il deviendra vraisemblablement le traitement de première intention des MLMC, ce qui conduira ainsi à un réel changement dans la prise en charge de cette pathologie.

## 2. Article scientifique en anglais

### **0.1% topical sirolimus in the treatment of cutaneous microcystic lymphatic malformations in children and adults (TOPICAL): protocol for a multicenter phase 2, within-person, randomized, double-blind, vehicle-controlled clinical trial**

#### **Authors**

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**4232 Words, 31 references, 2 figures, 1 table, 2 additional files**

### **Conflict of interest:**

The authors declare no conflict of competing interests.

### **Trial registration**

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: awaiting

EU Clinical Trials Register EudraCT Number: awaiting

**Protocol version:** version 1.2, October 19, 2018

## **Abstract**

### *Background*

Cutaneous microcystic lymphatic malformations (CMLMs) are rare conditions of children and adults resulting from abnormal embryologic development of lymphatic vessels. They present as clusters of vesicles full of lymph and blood of various extent. They ooze and bleed, inducing maceration, esthetic impairment, scars, pain, bacterial infections and impaired quality of life. Currently, treatments for CMLMs are disappointing, and their management is challenging. Sirolimus is an inhibitor of mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR), a serine/threonine protein kinase involved in cell growth and proliferation, cellular metabolism, autophagy and angio-lymphangiogenesis. Topical sirolimus, known to be efficient and well tolerated in cutaneous angiofibromas linked to tuberous sclerosis, has recently been reported effective in few reports of patients with CMLMs.

### *Objective*

The objective of this trial is to compare the efficacy and safety of a 12-week application of 0.1% topical sirolimus versus topical vehicle in CMLMs in children and adults.

### *Methods*

This French blinded multicentre within person randomized controlled phase 2 trial aims to include 50 patients  $\geq$  6 years old who have a primary CMLM without an underlying malformation. The CMLM will be divided into 2 equal areas of the same severity that will be randomly allocated to 0.1% topical sirolimus or topical vehicle for 12 weeks. During the double-blind 12-week period, both topical products will be applied by a nurse to avoid inter-group contamination and for better compliance. At the end of the 12-week period, the patient/parent will treat the whole area of CMLM with 0.1% topical sirolimus on remaining

lesions, for 8 more weeks. Patients will also be seen at week 20 (treatment will be stopped) and at month 12 to evaluate long-term efficacy. The primary outcome will be improvement of the CMLM in the area treated with topical sirolimus compared to the area treated with topical vehicle by the investigator physician (blinded to the treatment) with the Physician Global Assessment score at week 12. Secondary outcomes will include assessment of efficacy by independent experts on the basis of standardized photographs, impact on quality of life; efficacy on oozing, bleeding, erythema and thickness evaluated by the investigators; and global efficacy as well as efficacy for functional and aesthetic impairment evaluated by the patient. Systemic passage of sirolimus will be measured at weeks 6, 12 and 20.

### *Discussion*

For patients with CMLMs, topical sirolimus could be a non-invasive and well-tolerated therapeutic option. If the trial demonstrates efficacy and safety of this treatment in patients with CMLMs, this result will lead to a real change in the management of this condition, and 0.1% sirolimus cream would become the first-line treatment.

### **Keywords**

Cutaneous microcystic lymphatic malformation, lymphangiectasia, sirolimus, rapamycin, topical rapamycin, mammalian target of rapamycin inhibitor, vascular malformation

## **Background**

### ***Background and rationale***

Vascular malformations (VMs) are congenital anomalies that might involve four types of vessels (capillary, lymphatic, venous and arterial vessels) according to their classification as low- or high-flow VMs. The International Society for the Study of Vascular Anomalies updated their classification in 2014.<sup>1</sup> Among VMs, cystic lymphatic malformations are rare conditions in children and adults (estimated prevalence < 0.1%).<sup>2,3</sup> They consist of low-flow congenital VMs resulting from abnormal embryologic development of lymphatic vessels.<sup>4</sup> They might be macrocystic, microcystic or combined and can affect viscera, soft tissues and/or skin.

Cutaneous microcystic lymphatic malformations (CMLMs), also called lymphangiectasia, present as clusters of vesicles full of lymph and blood to various extents, usually located in a segmental area (head/neck, lower limbs, gluteal area).<sup>5</sup> They ooze and bleed, inducing maceration, esthetic impairment, scars, pain, bacterial infections, impaired quality of life and sometimes anemia. The natural history is progressive worsening during life (increase in lesions and complications). There are no guidelines for management of CMLMs, but therapeutic options are sclerotherapy (an efficient treatment for macrocystic lymphatic malformations but disappointing in CMLMs), physical treatments (pulsed-dye laser, CO<sub>2</sub> laser, radiofrequency, etc.)<sup>6,7</sup> and surgery<sup>8,9</sup>, but these options are painful and induce inflammation and scars, and their efficacy is usually incomplete and transitory, the recurrence rate being very high.<sup>10</sup> Management requires pluridisciplinary care. The “wait and see” attitude is frequently chosen.

Sirolimus belongs to mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) inhibitors. mTOR is a serine/threonine kinase, regulated by phosphoinositide-3-kinase, that acts as a master switch



in cell proliferation, apoptosis, metabolism and angio/lymphangiogenesis. Sirolimus directly inhibits the mTOR pathway, which thereby inhibits cell proliferation, angiogenesis and lymphangiogenesis.<sup>11,12</sup> Oral sirolimus is commonly used to prevent rejection of kidney transplants (FDA-approved in this indication).<sup>13</sup> It was recently reported as an efficient drug to reduce the volume of and limit complications in VMs, especially with lymphatic components, in children of all ages.<sup>14</sup> Two randomized controlled trials (RCTs) of oral sirolimus in VMs are ongoing in France and in the United States (NCT02509468 and NCT02110069). For CMLMs without underlying painful involvement, many physicians consider oral sirolimus as a too-aggressive option, despite the high level of impairment linked to the condition.

Topical sirolimus is known to be efficient and well tolerated in cutaneous angiofibromas linked to tuberous sclerosis complex: several RCTs have been performed and the drug is currently used in general practice.<sup>15,16</sup> Recently, topical sirolimus was reported effective in CMLMs, producing decreased number of vesicles, bleeding, oozing and pain, in one retrospective study involving 11 patients and in 3 case reports.<sup>17-20</sup> In the reported cases of CMLM and angiofibromas, only local side effects were reported, mostly irritative. Systemic passage of sirolimus was not or almost not detectable, but the concentration of sirolimus in the preparations and the surface of the areas that receive topical sirolimus were heterogeneous.

### ***Objectives***

We aim to perform a clinical trial (TOPical sIrolimus in CutAneous Lymphatic malformation; TOPICAL) to assess the efficacy and safety of a 12-week application of 0.1% topical sirolimus versus topical vehicle for CMLMs in children and adults.

### ***Trial design***

TOPICAL is a within person randomized, vehicle-controlled, investigator- and patient-blinded, multicenter, superiority study, comparing 0.1% topical sirolimus and vehicle treatment. For each patient, the investigator will divide the CMLM area into two equal areas of homogeneous severity separated by a 2-cm-wide strip (Figure 1). Each area will be randomly allocated to receive 0.1% topical sirolimus or topical vehicle, applied by a nurse, once daily for 12 weeks.

At the end of the 12-week period, the patient/parent will treat the whole area of CMLM with 0.1% topical sirolimus on the remaining lesions, for 8 more weeks (Figure 2). The purpose of this extension phase is to strengthen patients' adherence to the protocol. Indeed, due to the design, each patient will be his/her own control. He/she may observe an improvement in one of the two areas during the 12 week period, and may therefore be attempted to apply the treatment allocated to this area to the whole CMLM, which would introduce group contamination. This is the reason why we planned to have nurses applying the treatments and also why patients will be offered to treat the whole CMLM area with the active drug at the end of the 12 week period. Doing so, we expect them to be compliant to the protocol and not to give up the study.

After week 20, treatments will be left to the discretion of the investigator.

The within person design allows for reducing the number of patients to be included; indeed, the population is too rare for a parallel-group trial. Furthermore, the location and severity of CMLMs are heterogeneous among patients, and a within person design has the advantage of reducing inter-observation variability since each patient is his/her own control. Finally, all patients will receive the experimental treatment, which would not be the case with a parallel-group trial.

## **Methods: participants, interventions, and outcomes**

### ***Study setting***

The study will involve 16 French tertiary hospital centers, all involved in the management of vascular anomalies.

### ***Eligibility criteria***

#### *Inclusion criteria*

Eligible patients will be  $\geq 6$  years old (for a minimal size) and have a diagnosis of primary CMLM confirmed by histopathological or desmoscopic examination,<sup>21,22</sup> with or without an underlying malformation or a syndromic malformation (e.g., Proteus syndrome) responsible for impairment (oozing, bleeding and/or pain).

. We chose to include adults and children  $\geq 6$  years old because CMLMs can be seen in both children and adults; however, because the natural history of these malformations is a progressive worsening, impairments of CMLMs are usually not yet major in very young children. Moreover, we need a CMLM area large enough to apply both preparations, with a 2-cm central area in between, and consider that the required minimum area is 20 cm<sup>2</sup>, which is usually not possible in children younger than 6 years. A 2-cm-wide space will delimit the two areas of the CMLM to avoid contamination between these 2 areas.

#### *Exclusion criteria*

Patients with a lymphatic malformation requiring continued background therapy (involving deep organs) will be excluded, as will patients with secondary lymphatic malformations (lymphangiectasia post-radiotherapy, etc.); immunosuppression; ongoing neoplasia; active chronic infectious disease such as chronic viral hepatitis, tuberculosis or HIV infection; and pregnant females and females of childbearing age not using birth control.

We will exclude patients who previously received systemic or topical mTOR inhibitors within 12 months before inclusion or oral or topical steroids within 10 days before inclusion. Finally, we will exclude patients with contraindications to topical sirolimus, such as local fungal infections, viral infections (e.g., herpes) or bacterial infection (impetigo, etc.) on the site of the CMLM and known allergy to one of the components of the topical sirolimus preparations or the vehicle.

### ***Intervention***

For each patient, the investigator will divide the CMLM area into two equal areas separated by an area 2 cm wide. Severity of CMLM is usually quite homogeneous; the two areas chosen by the investigator will have to be of similar severity. Each area will be randomly allocated to receive 0.1% topical sirolimus or topical vehicle, applied once daily for 12 weeks (Figure 1). The 0.1% topical sirolimus application will be prepared and packaged by the pharmacy of the Hospital University Center (CHU) Angers. The formulation of topical sirolimus was developed by the pharmacy team of CHU Angers. Its stability and conservation have been tested and published,<sup>23</sup> and regulatory formalities are under way with health authorities. Sirolimus cream will be prepared by first solubilizing rapamycin in Transcutol®. Then, the mixture will be progressively added to Excipial® hydrocrème. The formulation is 0.03 g rapamycin, 1.5 g Transcutol®, and QS 30 g Excipial® hydrocrème, corresponding to a 0.1% concentration. The cream will be packaged in 30-ml aluminum tubes. The stability of this formulation was studied by high-performance liquid chromatography: the rapamycin concentration remained above 95% of the initial concentration for at least 85 days. The odour, appearance and colour of the preparation remained unchanged during storage.

During the double-blind 12-week period, we planned that a nurse, trained to the protocol, will apply both topical treatments to avoid inter-group contamination and for better compliance. Also, treatments will be kept by the nurses.

A research nurse of CHRU Tours will coordinate and support the nurses at home (2 nurses will be trained for each patient). A nursing notebook with a guide (explanation for application) and material will be provided to the nurses.

Each of the two products will be applied with use of a different glove and massaged until complete penetration of thin thickness. The amount to be applied will be defined by using the fingertip unit (FTU), which is widely used in dermatology.<sup>24</sup> One FTU is equivalent to 20 to 25 mm cream squeezed onto the fingertip. One FTU is 0.5 g cream and is sufficient to treat an area of skin twice the size of an adult's hand (including palm and fingers). Thus, the amount of cream to be applied will be adjusted by using the FTU depending on the size of the area.

Regarding concomitant treatments, bandages in case of oozing and bleeding and topical or systemic antibiotics in case of local bacterial infection will be authorized. Topical steroids, topical immunosuppressive drugs, sclerotherapy, lasers and surgery on the area will be prohibited. Systemic steroids for a more than 3 days, systemic immunosuppressive drugs and oral mTOR inhibitors will be prohibited as well.

## ***Outcomes***

### *Primary outcome*

The primary outcome will be the evaluation of the CMLM in the area treated with the intervention (0.1% topical sirolimus) compared with the area treated with topical vehicle

(inactive comparator) by the investigator physician (blinded to treatment) by using the 6-point Physician Global Assessment (PGA) score at week 12.

There are no specific scores for VMs. We chose the 6-point PGA score because it is relevant for this condition and is easy to understand. The PGA score ranges from 0 (clear) to 5 (severe) and is often used in trials investigating various dermatological conditions such as psoriasis.<sup>25,26</sup> We consider that a 1-point improvement in PGA score is clinically relevant for CMLM.

### *Secondary outcomes*

Secondary outcomes are clinical assessments of the efficacy of sirolimus as well as safety. Clinical efficacy will be assessed by different endpoints (Table 1).

- Two blinded independent experts will qualitatively assess digital photographs. Experts will be provided photographs for each patient at baseline and at week 12; they will be asked to identify, at the end of the study, which area among the two areas received the active treatment.
- Comparison of improvement of CMLM in the area treated with topical sirolimus and that treated with topical vehicle will be evaluated by the PGA score at baseline, week 6, week 20 and month 20.
- Quality of life will be self-assessed by the patient at week 20 and month 12 in comparison to baseline by using the validated Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI) or Child-DLQI for children.
- Pain linked to the CMLM will be self-assessed by the patient (and parents for children < 16 years old) with a visual analog scale (VAS; 0–10) at baseline, week 20 and month 12.

- Improvement in terms of oozing, bleeding, erythema and thickness will be assessed by the investigator with blinding to treatment on a 0 to 10 VAS (0, no improvement; 10, recovery) at baseline (on both areas), week 12 (on both areas), week 20 (on the whole area), and month 12 (on the whole area).
- Global improvement in CMLM will be self-assessed by the patient on a 0 to 10 VAS (and parents for children < 16 years old) at week 12 (in both areas), week 20 (on the whole area) and month 12 (on the whole area).
- Functional and aesthetic impairment will be self-assessed by the patient (and parents for children < 16 years old) on a 0 to 10 VAS at baseline, week 20 and month 12.

### *Safety*

Local adverse events (AEs) in both areas treated with topical sirolimus and vehicle before week 12 and the whole CMLM at week 20 will be recorded. The expected local AEs are mostly irritative (erythema, burning, dryness, itching, pruritus). Systemic passage of sirolimus will be assessed at weeks 6, 12 and 20 (dosage of serum level of sirolimus) and at week 16 with CMLM area  $\geq 30 \times 30$  cm or  $\geq 900$  cm<sup>2</sup>. Evaluation of biological safety will be assessed at weeks 12 and 20 in comparison to baseline (we will use biological measurements that are required for assessing safety of oral sirolimus: blood cell count, liver and renal functions, ionogram, lipids [cholesterol and triglycerides] and glycemia).

Classical AEs of oral sirolimus are clinical (mostly mucositis, gastrointestinal effects, fatigue, headaches, hypertension) and biological (thrombocytopenia, leucopenia, anemia, hyperlipidemia, hyperglycemia, hypokaliemia and increased liver enzyme levels). However, no general AE has ever been reported with topical sirolimus, but several local AEs were reported. Indeed, the risk of a systemic adverse reaction seems low with topical sirolimus, because systemic absorption is very low or hardly detectable. This risk will be assessed with blood samples in order to assess the safety of the treatment and systemic passage. If a

sirolimus level is detectable, the study treatment will not be stopped. With sirolimus level  $\geq$  15 ng/ml,<sup>27</sup> the treatment will be stopped.

Safety evaluation parameters will be performed at each visit by asking the patients/parents to report clinical AEs.

### ***Participant timeline***

Duration of participation will be 12 months for each patient. The time schedule of enrolment and visits is in the Table 1.

### ***Sample size***

The study is planned as a within person design, which means that data from the two areas of a patient will be matched. In addition, the PGA score is an ordered score ranging from 0 (clear) to 5 (severe). Therefore, we will use the Wilcoxon signed-rank test to compare the effect of the treatment at week 12. To the best of our knowledge, we do not have enough data to correctly formulate the required assumptions to estimate the sample size by using a Wilcoxon signed-rank test for paired data. Therefore, we used an approach based on continuous data and the Student *t* test to specify the sample size, assuming that the score difference (between the two zones) follows a normal distribution. Hypothesizing a 1-point difference and a 2.5-point standard deviation would lead to a 0.4 effect size. Assuming a power of 80%, a two-sided type I error rate of 5%, we will need to recruit 52 patients. We plan to recruit 55 patients.

### ***Recruitment***

The recruitment of children with these malformations is allowed by the fact that all co-investigators belong to tertiary care centers for vascular anomalies and participate in multidisciplinary consultations on lymphatic malformations. Most co-investigators are already involved in the French trial on oral sirolimus PERFORMUS (NCT02509468) for which



recruitment ended in March 2018. Some belong to the French network for research on pediatric dermatology (Groupe de Recherche de la Société Française de Dermatologie Pédiatrique).

## **Methods: assignment of interventions**

### ***Allocation***

#### *Sequence generation and allocation concealment mechanism*

In this within-person trial, areas of the CMLM will be randomly assigned to either control or experimental group with a 1:1 ratio allocation as per a computer (SAS based) generated randomization schedule. Participants will be randomized using Ennov Clinical©, an online central randomization procedure via e-CRF. To insure allocation concealment, randomization procedure will not be possible until the participant has been recruited into the trial, especially the consent and all eligibility criteria must be collected and met.

#### *Implementation*

Allocation sequence will be generated by a statistician not involved in the recruitment or follow-up of participants.

### ***Blinding***

Patients, parents, nurses and investigators will be blinded to the treatment allocated to each area of the CMLM during the first step of the study (until week 12, when the primary endpoint will be assessed). To ensure double blinding, both areas will be randomized, and the topical treatments (sirolimus and vehicle) to be applied will have similar packaging. The appearance of the drugs is similar; thus the active drug (topical sirolimus) and vehicle cannot be distinguished at drug allocation. Also, the consistency of the creams is similar.

Topical sirolimus might induce burning or pruritus. However, we do not consider that this side effect would compromise the blinding by allowing the patient to know which area is being treated with the active cream and the vehicle because 1) identifying precisely which area is itching or burning on a CMLM is difficult, 2) itching and burning might be linked to the CMLM itself, and 3) usually, no inflammation is objectively detectable. The allocation table will be kept in an envelope and will be stored in a secure place. Unblinding will be requested for any reason considered essential by the investigating doctor following the procedure determined in advance.

## **Methods: data collection, management, and analysis**

### ***Data collection methods***

The table shows data collection according to inclusion and follow-up visits.

### ***Data management***

An e-CRF will be developed by using Ennov Clinical© software. The e-CRF will be managed in agreement with INSERM CIC 1415 Standardized Operating Procedures (SOP). Data from investigating centres will be entered by using a secure web site monitored by clinical research associates, and queries will be edited by data managers, in agreement with an *a priori*-specified data-management plan. A blinded review will be performed before locking the database. The database will be locked in agreement with INSERM CIC 1415 SOPs and data will be extracted in a SAS format or other, according to statistical requirements. Raw data will be stored in an XML format.

### ***Statistical methods***

Considering the primary outcome, the study is planned as a within-person trial with the specificity that in these types of studies, each patient serves as his/her own control. In this

way we will have a paired sample. The PGA score for the two areas at week 12 will be compared by a Wilcoxon signed rank test if necessary. For secondary outcomes, PGA score, physician assessment of efficacy, patient self-assessment and biological relative changes will be analyzed by the same approach (i.e., paired *t* test or Wilcoxon signed-rank test).

Considering efficacy seen on digital photographs, assessed by two independent trained readers, the “lady-tasting-tea” procedure will be used to test whether readers performed better than expected in identifying the area treated by the active treatment.<sup>28</sup> Regarding AEs and systemic passage of sirolimus, descriptive statistics (numbers and percentages) will be calculated.

## **Methods: monitoring**

### ***Data monitoring***

A clinical research assistant will be responsible for coordinating the study: the assistant will be responsible for the logistics of and monitoring the study, producing reports concerning its state of progress, verifying that the e-CRFs are updated (request for additional information, corrections, etc.) and transmitting severe AEs to the sponsor. The technician will follow the SOPs.

A data safety monitoring board (DSMB) will be composed of three medical doctors specialized in pharmaco-dermatology and dermatology. The DSMB will be systematically contacted 1) at any time by the sponsor for each case of expected serious adverse reaction or for a suspected unexpected serious adverse drug reaction (SUSAR); 2) before each development safety update report is sent to the French Agency for the Safety of Health Products (ANSM); and 3) if data may change the benefit/risk ratio during the clinical trial.

### ***Harms***

All AEs will be monitored until they are completely resolved. The investigator will immediately notify the sponsor of any serious AE. The sponsor will report all SUSARs to the Eudravigilance (European pharmacovigilance database), French health authorities (ANSM), and the investigators within the regulatory time periods for reporting.

### ***Auditing***

An audit may be performed at any time by sponsor-appointed people who are independent of those responsible for the study. The investigators agree to comply with the requirements of the sponsor and the relevant authority for an audit or inspection of the study. The audit can apply at all stages of the study, from development of the protocol to publication of results.

### **Ethics and dissemination**

#### ***Research ethics approval***

The sponsor and the investigators undertake to conduct this study in compliance with French law no. 2004-806 of August 9, 2004 and following Good Clinical Practice and the Helsinki Declaration (Ethical Principles for Medical Research involving Human Subjects, Tokyo 2004). The study will be conducted in accordance with this protocol. With the exclusion of emergency situations requiring specific therapeutic actions, the investigators will observe the protocol in all respects, particularly in obtaining consent and the notification and follow-up of serious AEs.

The protocol was submitted to the French institutional review board and to ANSM for authorizations.

#### ***Protocol amendments***

Important protocol modifications will be submitted for approval to the institutional review board of the University Hospital of Tours and will be communicated to coinvestigators.

#### ***Consent and assent***

Participants will be orally informed of the study and will receive written information and their informed sign consent will be obtained. For children < 18 years old, parents will give their informed signed consent after their child has consented (if able). Children ≥ 16 years old must also consent to use of their data according to article 89 (Regulation [EU] 2016/679 - RGPD).

### ***Confidentiality***

During this biomedical research study or when it is completed, the information collected for participants and forwarded to the sponsor by the investigators (or any other specialized staff member involved) will be made anonymous. Under no circumstances will the uncoded names or addresses of the participants concerned appear in any data.

### ***Access to data***

The sponsor is responsible for obtaining agreement from all parties involved in the study in order to guarantee direct access (in all sites where the study is being conducted) to source data, source documents and reports, to control their quality and to audit them.

The investigators will make available to people with a right of access according to the legislative and regulatory provisions in force (articles L.1121-3 and R.5121-13 of the French Public Health Act) the documents and individual data strictly necessary for monitoring, carrying out quality control and auditing the biomedical research.

### ***Dissemination policy***

INSERM CIC 1415 Tours will analyse the data provided by the study centres. Results will be displayed in a written report that will be submitted to the sponsor. At the end of the analysis, results will be published in ClinicalTrials.gov. The international rules for writing and publication (Vancouver Agreement, February 2006) will be followed.

Patients will be informed, at their request, about the overall results of the study.

## ***SPIRIT***

This protocol has been written in accordance with the Standard Protocol Items:

Recommendations for Interventional Trials (SPIRIT) guidelines. The SPIRIT checklist is in Additional file 2.

## **Discussion**

This within-person, blinded RCT aims to compare 0.1% topical sirolimus with topical vehicle in CMLMs in children over 6 years and adults. Several case reports have suggested efficacy of this treatment, linked to the anti-lymphangiogenic properties of sirolimus, but this needs to be demonstrated. CMLMs are very rare diseases, and this design allows for reducing the number of patients to be included; indeed, the population is too rare for a parallel-group trial. Furthermore, the location and severity of CMLMs are heterogeneous among patients, and a within-person design, also called split-body design, has the advantage of reducing individual inter-variability. Finally, all patients will receive the experimental treatment, which would not be the case with a parallel-group trial.

The hypothesis of this protocol study is that 0.1% topical sirolimus applied once daily during 12 weeks on CMLM is more efficient than a placebo cream (vehicle), by reducing the thickness of CMLM, oozing, bleeding, impairments and pain. In the literature, modalities of use of topical sirolimus are highly heterogeneous: the product has been used as creams or solutions, with concentrations ranging from 0.015 to 8%. Creams were better tolerated than solutions, and the most frequently used was sirolimus cream 0.1%, all conditions included.<sup>29</sup> This heterogeneity is linked to the fact that topical sirolimus is not marketed, and different formulations are therefore used. Sirolimus has a high molecular weight, 914.17 Dalton,<sup>30</sup> which allows for diffusion limited to the skin. Thus, rapamycin was solubilized in a solvent

(Transcutol®) which is an excellent permeation agent that enhances drug diffusion through the skin.<sup>31</sup>

We expect no general side effects and no severe local adverse effects: for topical sirolimus, adverse effects previously described are local and of mild intensity: (irritation, burning sensation, pruritus), reported in one third of cases. We also expect a non-significant blood passage of the drug. Indeed, in previous reports, systemic passage of sirolimus with different concentrations of topical sirolimus in different skin conditions was not or almost not detectable and depends on the quantity of active principle administered and on the surface to be treated.<sup>29</sup> In the present study, if systemic passage of sirolimus is evidenced, the consequence would be a reduction in difference between the two areas, and this would be unfavorable to our expected results.

As current treatments in CMLM are often disappointing and painful (lasers, surgery, sclerotherapy), an individual benefit is expected. If the trial demonstrates the efficacy and safety of the treatment in patients with CMLMs, this will lead to a real change in the management of this rare condition, and 0.1% sirolimus cream would become the first-line treatment.

## **Trial status**

Regulatory applications have been submitted (French institutional review board and ANSM).

## **Abbreviations**

AEs: Adverse Events

ANSM: Agence Nationale de Sécurité du Médicament et des produits de santé

CMLM: Cutaneous Microcystic Lymphatic Malformation

DLQI: Dermatology Life Quality Index

DSMB: Data Safety Monitoring Board

e-CRF: Electronic Case Report Form

HPLC: High Pressure Liquid Chromatography

ISSVA: International Society for the Study of Vascular Anomalies

mTOR: mammalian Target Of Rapamycin

PGA: Physician Global Assessment

RCT: Randomized Controlled Trial

SAEs: Severe Adverse Events

SOP: Standardized Operating Procedures

SUSAR: Suspected Unexpected Serious Adverse Reaction

VAS: Visual Analog Scale

VM: Vascular Malformation

## **Declarations**

### ***Ethical Approval and Consent to participate***

Regulatory applications have been submitted (French institutional review board and ANSM).



Written and oral informed consent is obtained from all participants before enrolment.

### ***Consent for publication***

We have obtained informed consent for publication of the dataset from patients at the point of recruitment to the trial. All patient details will be fully anonymous.

### ***Competing interests***

The authors declare no competing interests.

### ***Funding***

The study is funded by the French Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (French National Program of Clinical Research [PHRC-N], 2017). No industry support is involved.

### ***Authors's contributions***

SL, AM, GL, DG, DH, AL, VG and BG conceived of the study. OB, DB, LG, PV, JMH, SB, CC, SB, CD, CD, SM, LM, SL and BM participated in its design and coordination. AC and BG perform the statistical calculations. SL, AM, BG and AC will write the manuscript. All authors will read and approve the final manuscript.

### ***Acknowledgements***

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## **Additional files**

Additional file 1. Informed consent

Additional file 2. SPIRIT checklist

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## Tables

**Table 1. Schedule of enrolment, interventions, and assessments**

	STUDY PERIOD					
	Screening	Inclusion	Follow up			
	V0	D1 (V1)	W6 (V2)	W12 (V3)	W20 (V4)	M12 (V5)
TIMEPOINT	<i>14 to 28 days just before treatment initiation</i>	-	+/- 3 days	+/- 3 days	+/- 3 days	+/- 5 days
DRUG ADMINISTRATION		←—————once daily—————→				
ENROLLMENT						
Eligibility screening	X					
<b>Informed consent</b>	X					
Control of inclusion and non-inclusion criteria	X					
<b>Preparations ordering</b>	X					
<b>Randomization</b>		X				
Physical examination		X	X	X	X	X
Height and weight		X				
Vital signs(cardiac frequency, arterial pressure)		X	X	X	X	X
Photographs		X		X		
Location and mesure of the CMLM	X					
Definition of the 2 areas		X				
Urinary pregnancy test for women***	X	X	1 X / month until S20		X	

Blood sample for tolerance*		X		X	X	
Serum level of sirolimus****			X	X	X	
Cutaneous effects			X	X	X	
Adverse events			X	X	X	
Delivery of nursery/tracking notebook		X	X	X		
INTERVENTIONS**:						
<b>Delivery of topical sirolimus</b>		X	X	X		
<b>Delivery of vehicle</b>		X	X			
Treatment returns			X	X	X	
ASSESSMENTS:						
PGA score		X	X	X	X	X
Dermatological quality of life scale-DLQI		X			X	X
VAS for self-assessment of pain		X			X	X
VAS for assessment of efficacy by the investigator on oozing, bleeding, erythema, thickness		X		X	X	X
VAS for self-assessment of global efficacy				X	X	X
VAS for self-assessment on functional and esthetic impairments		X			X	X

\* Blood count, ionogram, liver function (ASAT, ALAT, gamma-GT), renal function (creatinine), lipids (cholesterol, triglycerides), glycemia. Local analysis.

\*\* Application of both topical preparations (intervention or inactive comparator) by a liberal nurse

\*\*\* If detectable sirolimus rate: monthly pregnancy test for 3 additional months.

\*\*\*\* If CMLM  $\geq 30 \times 30$  cm and/or  $\geq 900$  cm<sup>2</sup>, a blood sample for evaluation of systemic passage of sirolimus (residual serum level of sirolimus) will be performed at week 16

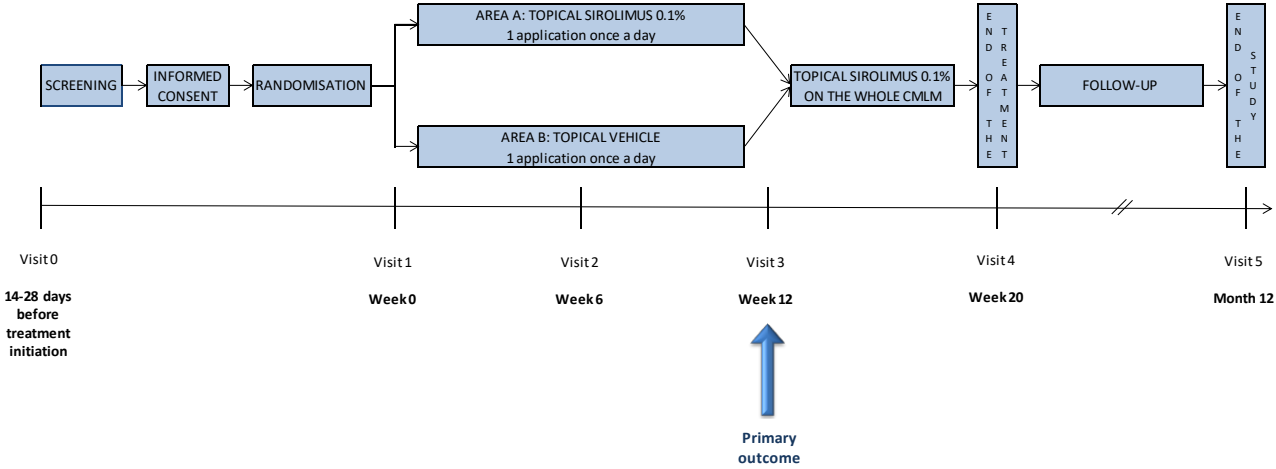


## Figures

**Figure 1.** Example of a cutaneous microcystic lymphatic malformation of the leg: the investigator will define two areas of similar size and severity by using a ruler, with a separation area of at least 2 cm wide between both areas (five points will be drawn on the patient to define the two areas to apply the product in a reproducible way by the nurse and to avoid inter-area contamination).



**Figure 2.** Flow-chart of the study



## Additional file 1. Informed consent

TOPICAL  
ID RCB : 2018-001359-11

CHRU de Tours

v1-A du 19.07.2018

### Formulaire de consentement de participation à une Recherche interventionnelle sur la personne humaine : Adultes participant à l'étude



**Je soussigné(e) Nom :** ..... **Prénom :** .....

**Adresse :** .....  
.....

Déclare avoir pris connaissance des informations orales et écrites (*lettre d'information v1-A du 19/07/2018*) qui m'ont été transmises pour une **participation à l'étude clinique TOPICAL** « *Évaluation de l'efficacité et de la tolérance du sirolimus topique 0.1% dans les malformations cutanées lymphatiques microkystiques : essai thérapeutique de phase II, randomisé, en double aveugle, en comparaison intra individuelle versus véhicule* » organisée par le CHRU de Tours qui en est le Promoteur, autorisée par l'ANSM (n° XXXX) et le CPP XX (n°XXXX).

J'ai reçu du médecin investigateur, toutes les informations nécessaires concernant l'objectif de cette recherche, son déroulement ainsi que mes conditions de participation, mes droits, les bénéfices attendus, les contraintes et les risques prévisibles. J'ai pu poser toutes les questions que je voulais et j'ai reçu les réponses adaptées. J'ai bénéficié d'un temps de réflexion suffisant entre ces informations et le présent consentement. J'ai également compris que je pouvais refuser de participer à cette étude sans que cela ne porte préjudice à la suite de ma prise en charge. Compte tenu des informations qui m'ont été transmises,

- **J'accepte librement et volontairement de participer à cette étude,**

- **J'accepte que les données enregistrées à l'occasion de cette étude puissent faire l'objet d'un traitement informatisé par le promoteur ou pour son compte dans les conditions prévues par la Loi Informatique et Libertés et par le Règlement Européen 2016/679. J'ai été informé(e) de tous mes droits concernant mes données personnelles selon les modalités décrites dans la lettre d'information en vigueur,**

- **Je certifie être bénéficiaire d'un régime de sécurité sociale.**

Conformément à la loi, le CHRU de Tours, promoteur de cette étude, a souscrit une assurance de responsabilité auprès de la compagnie SHAM afin de couvrir tout préjudice corporel ou toute incapacité que pourrait entraîner cette étude.

<b>Partie à remplir par le participant à l'étude</b>	<b>Partie à remplir par le médecin investigateur</b>
Nom et prénom : _____	Nom et prénom : _____
Date : ____ / ____ / _____ Signature :	Date : ____ / ____ / _____ Signature :

*En deux exemplaires : original pour le médecin investigateur et un exemplaire pour le participant*



**Formulaire de consentement de participation à une  
Recherche interventionnelle sur la personne humaine :  
Mineurs participant à l'étude**

**Parent (1) :** Je soussigné(e),

Nom : ..... Prénom : .....

Adresse : .....

.....

**Parent (2) :** Je soussigné(e),

Nom : ..... Prénom : .....

Adresse (à compléter si différente de (1)) : .....

.....

Merci de cocher seulement si applicable :  **Certifie être le seul titulaire de l'exercice de l'autorité parentale**

**De l'enfant** Nom : ..... Prénom : .....

**Né(e) le :** \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Déclarent avoir pris connaissance des informations orales et écrites (*lettres d'information v1-B du 19/07/2018*) qui nous ont été transmises pour une **participation de notre enfant à l'étude clinique TOPICAL « Évaluation de l'efficacité et de la tolérance du sirolimus topique 0.1% dans les malformations cutanées lymphatiques microkystiques : essai thérapeutique de phase II, randomisé, en double aveugle, en comparaison intra individuelle versus véhicule »** organisée par le CHRU de Tours qui en est le Promoteur, autorisée par l'ANSM (n° XXXX) et le CPP XX (n°XXXX).

Nous avons reçu du médecin investigateur qui suit notre enfant, toutes les informations nécessaires concernant l'objectif de cette recherche, son déroulement ainsi que les conditions de participation de notre enfant, nos droits, les bénéfices attendus, les contraintes et les risques prévisibles. Nous avons pu poser toutes les questions que nous voulions et nous avons reçu les réponses adaptées. Nous avons bénéficié d'un temps de réflexion suffisant entre ces informations et le présent consentement. Nous avons également compris que nous pouvions refuser que notre enfant participe à cette étude sans que cela ne porte préjudice à la suite de sa prise en charge.

Compte tenu des informations qui nous ont été transmises,

- **Nous acceptons librement et volontairement que notre enfant participe à cette étude,**
- **Nous acceptons que les données enregistrées à l'occasion de cette étude puissent faire l'objet d'un traitement informatisé par le promoteur ou pour son compte dans les conditions prévues par la Loi Informatique et Libertés et par le Règlement Européen 2016/679. J'ai été informé(e) de tous mes droits concernant mes données personnelles selon les modalités décrites dans la lettre d'information en vigueur. Nous avons été informés que si notre enfant a 16 ans ou plus, ce dernier doit également donner son consentement pour le traitement informatisé de ses données.**
- **Nous certifions être bénéficiaires d'un régime de sécurité sociale.**

Conformément à la loi, le CHRU de Tours, promoteur de l'étude, a souscrit une assurance de responsabilité auprès de la compagnie SHAM afin de couvrir tout préjudice corporel ou toute incapacité que pourrait entraîner cette étude.

<b>Partie à remplir par les parents (ou titulaire de l'exercice de l'autorité parentale)</b>	
Date : ___ / ___ / _____	Signature :
Date : ___ / ___ / _____	Signature :
<b>Partie à remplir par le participant mineur de 16 ans ou plus</b>	
Date : ___ / ___ / _____	J'ai bien été informé(e) de l'étude ( <i>lettre d'information v1-C</i> ) et j'accepte le traitement informatisé de mes données. Signature :
<b>Partie à remplir par le médecin investigateur</b>	
Nom, Prénom : .....	Signature :
Date : ___ / ___ / _____	

*En deux exemplaires : original pour le médecin investigateur et un exemplaire pour les parents*

**Additional file 2: SPIRIT checklist**



STANDARD PROTOCOL ITEMS: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERVENTIONAL TRIALS

SPIRIT 2013 Checklist: Recommended items to address in a clinical trial protocol and related documents\*

Section/item	ItemNo	Description	Page Number on which item is reported
<b>Administrative information</b>			
Title	1	Descriptive title identifying the study design, population, interventions, and, if applicable, trial acronym	59
Trial registration	2a	Trial identifier and registry name. If not yet registered, name of intended registry	61
	2b	All items from the World Health Organization Trial Registration Data Set	-
Protocol version	3	Date and version identifier	61
Funding	4	Sources and types of financial, material, and other support	81
Roles and responsibilities	5a	Names, affiliations, and roles of protocol contributors	81
	5b	Name and contact information for the trial sponsor	81

	5c	Role of study sponsor and funders, if any, in study design; collection, management, analysis, and interpretation of data; writing of the report; and the decision to submit the report for publication, including whether they will have ultimate authority over any of these activities	81
	5d	Composition, roles, and responsibilities of the coordinating centre, steering committee, endpoint adjudication committee, data management team, and other individuals or groups overseeing the trial, if applicable (see Item 21a for data monitoring committee)	81
<b>Introduction</b>			
Background and rationale	6a	Description of research question and justification for undertaking the trial, including summary of relevant studies (published and unpublished) examining benefits and harms for each intervention	64-65
	6b	Explanation for choice of comparators	64-65
Objectives	7	Specific objectives or hypotheses	65
Trial design	8	Description of trial design including type of trial (eg, parallel group, crossover, factorial, single group), allocation ratio, and framework (eg, superiority, equivalence, noninferiority, exploratory)	65-66
<b>Methods: Participants, interventions, and outcomes</b>			
Study setting	9	Description of study settings (eg, community clinic, academic hospital) and list of countries where data will be collected. Reference to where list of study sites can be obtained	67
Eligibility criteria	10	Inclusion and exclusion criteria for participants. If applicable, eligibility criteria for study centres and individuals who will perform the interventions (eg, surgeons, psychotherapists)	67-68

Interventions	11a	Interventions for each group with sufficient detail to allow replication, including how and when they will be administered	68-69
	11b	Criteria for discontinuing or modifying allocated interventions for a given trial participant (eg, drug dose change in response to harms, participant request, or improving/worsening disease)	66, 68-69
	11c	Strategies to improve adherence to intervention protocols, and any procedures for monitoring adherence (eg, drug tablet return, laboratory tests)	66, 68-69
	11d	Relevant concomitant care and interventions that are permitted or prohibited during the trial	68-69
Outcomes	12	Primary, secondary, and other outcomes, including the specific measurement variable (eg, systolic blood pressure), analysis metric (eg, change from baseline, final value, time to event), method of aggregation (eg, median, proportion), and time point for each outcome. Explanation of the clinical relevance of chosen efficacy and harm outcomes is strongly recommended	69-71
Participant timeline	13	Time schedule of enrolment, interventions (including any run-ins and washouts), assessments, and visits for participants. A schematic diagram is highly recommended (see Figure)	72
Sample size	14	Estimated number of participants needed to achieve study objectives and how it was determined, including clinical and statistical assumptions supporting any sample size calculations	72
Recruitment	15	Strategies for achieving adequate participant enrolment to reach target sample size	72-73
<b>Methods: Assignment of interventions (for controlled trials)</b>			
Allocation:			

Sequence generation	16a	Method of generating the allocation sequence (eg, computer-generated random numbers), and list of any factors for stratification. To reduce predictability of a random sequence, details of any planned restriction (eg, blocking) should be provided in a separate document that is unavailable to those who enrol participants or assign interventions	73
Allocation concealment mechanism	16b	Mechanism of implementing the allocation sequence (eg, central telephone; sequentially numbered, opaque, sealed envelopes), describing any steps to conceal the sequence until interventions are assigned	73
Implementation	16c	Who will generate the allocation sequence, who will enrol participants, and who will assign participants to interventions	73
Blinding (masking)	17a	Who will be blinded after assignment to interventions (eg, trial participants, care providers, outcome assessors, data analysts), and how	73-74
	17b	If blinded, circumstances under which unblinding is permissible, and procedure for revealing a participant's allocated intervention during the trial	73-74
<b>Methods: Data collection, management, and analysis</b>			
Data collection methods	18a	Plans for assessment and collection of outcome, baseline, and other trial data, including any related processes to promote data quality (eg, duplicate measurements, training of assessors) and a description of study instruments (eg, questionnaires, laboratory tests) along with their reliability and validity, if known. Reference to where data collection forms can be found, if not in the protocol	74
	18b	Plans to promote participant retention and complete follow-up, including list of any outcome data to be collected for participants who discontinue or deviate from intervention protocols	-



Data management	19	Plans for data entry, coding, security, and storage, including any related processes to promote data quality (eg, double data entry; range checks for data values). Reference to where details of data management procedures can be found, if not in the protocol	74
Statistical methods	20a	Statistical methods for analysing primary and secondary outcomes. Reference to where other details of the statistical analysis plan can be found, if not in the protocol	74-75
	20b	Methods for any additional analyses (eg, subgroup and adjusted analyses)	-
	20c	Definition of analysis population relating to protocol non-adherence (eg, as randomised analysis), and any statistical methods to handle missing data (eg, multiple imputation)	74-75
<b>Methods: Monitoring</b>			
Data monitoring	21a	Composition of data monitoring committee (DMC); summary of its role and reporting structure; statement of whether it is independent from the sponsor and competing interests; and reference to where further details about its charter can be found, if not in the protocol. Alternatively, an explanation of why a DMC is not needed	75
	21b	Description of any interim analyses and stopping guidelines, including who will have access to these interim results and make the final decision to terminate the trial	-
Harms	22	Plans for collecting, assessing, reporting, and managing solicited and spontaneously reported adverse events and other unintended effects of trial interventions or trial conduct	75-76
Auditing	23	Frequency and procedures for auditing trial conduct, if any, and whether the process will be independent from investigators and the sponsor	76

<b>Ethics and dissemination</b>			
Research ethics approval	24	Plans for seeking research ethics committee/institutional review board (REC/IRB) approval	76
Protocol amendments	25	Plans for communicating important protocol modifications (eg, changes to eligibility criteria, outcomes, analyses) to relevant parties (eg, investigators, REC/IRBs, trial participants, trial registries, journals, regulators)	76
Consent or assent	26a	Who will obtain informed consent or assent from potential trial participants or authorised surrogates, and how (see Item 32)	76-77
	26b	Additional consent provisions for collection and use of participant data and biological specimens in ancillary studies, if applicable	NA
Confidentiality	27	How personal information about potential and enrolled participants will be collected, shared, and maintained in order to protect confidentiality before, during, and after the trial	77
Declaration of interests	28	Financial and other competing interests for principal investigators for the overall trial and each study site	81
Access to data	29	Statement of who will have access to the final trial dataset, and disclosure of contractual agreements that limit such access for investigators	-
Ancillary and post-trial care	30	Provisions, if any, for ancillary and post-trial care, and for compensation to those who suffer harm from trial participation	-
Dissemination policy	31a	Plans for investigators and sponsor to communicate trial results to participants, healthcare professionals, the public, and other relevant groups (eg, via publication, reporting in results databases, or other data sharing arrangements), including any publication restrictions	77

	31b	Authorship eligibility guidelines and any intended use of professional writers	-
	31c	Plans, if any, for granting public access to the full protocol, participant-level dataset, and statistical code	-
<b>Appendices</b>			
Informed consent materials	32	Model consent form and other related documentation given to participants and authorised surrogates	Additional file 1
Biological specimens	33	Plans for collection, laboratory evaluation, and storage of biological specimens for genetic or molecular analysis in the current trial and for future use in ancillary studies, if applicable	NA

\*It is strongly recommended that this checklist be read in conjunction with the SPIRIT 2013 Explanation & Elaboration for important clarification on the items. Amendments to the protocol should be tracked and dated. The SPIRIT checklist is copyrighted by the SPIRIT Group under the Creative Commons "[Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/)" license.

#### IV- CONCLUSION GÉNÉRALE ET PERSPECTIVES

L'utilisation des inhibiteurs de mTOR par voie topique est croissante en dermatologie, avec une efficacité démontrée sur les angiofibromes faciaux liés à la sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville. Leur tolérance est globalement bonne, avec uniquement des effets secondaires locaux, principalement irritatifs, décrits. Le passage systémique du sirolimus est faible ou absent.

D'autres indications semblent prometteuses mais nécessitent des essais randomisés pour confirmer leur efficacité. L'essai randomisé, en *split body*, étudiant le sirolimus topique 0,1% versus placebo dans les malformations lymphatiques cutanées microkystiques pourrait permettre de modifier la prise en charge de cette pathologie chronique, qui est sans traitement de référence actuellement. Du fait de l'absence de produit commercialisé du sirolimus topique, la crème sera préparée par le CHU d'Angers via la plateforme PPRIGO (Production Pharmaceutique pour la Recherche Institutionnelle du Grand Ouest). La formulation a été développée par le service de Pharmacie du CHU d'Angers, sa stabilité et sa conservation ont été étudiées et publiées (Bouguéon et al., 2016).

D'autres protocoles de recherche sur les malformations lymphatiques, coordonnés par notre équipe de recherche, sont en cours ou en développement : PERFORMUS (traitement par sirolimus des malformations vasculaires de bas débit, volumineuses et compliquées, chez l'enfant : essai thérapeutique de phase 2, multicentrique, PHRCN 2014) dont le recrutement est achevé et le suivi se poursuit ; et TOPGUN (efficacité d'un traitement par sirolimus des malformations lymphatiques microkystiques linguales buccales, légères à modérées, chez l'enfant à partir de 6 ans et l'adulte, Appel d'Offre Interne, CHRU Tours 2018) dont la rédaction du protocole est en cours de finalisation.

Après avoir réalisé le travail de revue de la littérature, j'ai participé à la rédaction du protocole de recherche TOPICAL, coordonné par le Pr Maruani et avec l'aide de l'équipe du Centre d'Investigation Clinique (CIC) - INSERM 1415 de Tours. J'ai ensuite effectué un semestre au cours de mon internat au sein du CIC, qui m'a permis de participer à la rédaction de protocoles et à la réalisation d'analyses statistiques.

J'ai débuté en Octobre 2018 un Master 2 de Modélisation en Pharmacologie Clinique et Épidémiologie (Universités de Nantes et Rennes), avec comme projet de Master 2 la réalisation d'un algorithme décisionnel pour la planification d'un essai évaluant un traitement topique.

Ainsi, la participation à la rédaction d'un protocole de recherche dans le cadre de ma thèse et mon stage au CIC m'ont permis d'acquérir les bases théoriques et pratiques nécessaires à la recherche clinique et m'ont confortée dans mon attrait pour ce domaine.

## Leducq Sophie

Pages : 102

Tableaux : 2

Figures : 5

Annexes : 4

### Résumé :

*Rationnel.* Les malformations lymphatiques microkystiques cutanées (MLMC) sont des maladies rares de l'enfant et de l'adulte. Elles se manifestent par des amas de vésicules à contenu clair ou hématisé et peuvent se compliquer de suintement et de saignement réguliers. Actuellement, les traitements pour les MLMC sont décevants et leur prise en charge est difficile. Le sirolimus appartient aux inhibiteurs de mTOR (*mammalian Target Of Rapamycin*) ; mTOR est une sérine/thréonine kinase, impliquée notamment dans l'angio/lymphangiogenèse. Le sirolimus topique, qui est efficace et bien toléré pour le traitement des angiofibromes faciaux liés à la sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville, a été récemment rapporté comme efficace pour le traitement de 3 cas de MLMC. L'objectif de cette étude est d'évaluer l'efficacité et la tolérance d'un traitement par sirolimus topique 0,1% pendant 12 semaines dans les MLMC chez les adultes et enfants, versus crème placebo (véhicule).

*Méthodes.* Il s'agit d'une étude de phase 2 multicentrique, en split body, randomisée, contrôlée, en double aveugle visant à inclure 50 patients âgés de plus de 6 ans, qui ont une MLMC primaire. La MLMC sera divisée en 2 zones égales de sévérité équivalente sur lesquelles sera appliqué le sirolimus topique 0,1% ou le véhicule pour 12 semaines. A la fin des 12 semaines, l'ensemble de la MLMC sera traité par le sirolimus topique pour 8 semaines supplémentaires. Le critère de jugement principal consistera en l'évaluation de l'amélioration de la zone de la MLMC traitée par sirolimus topique 0,1% comparativement à la zone traitée par le véhicule, par un investigateur (en aveugle), en utilisant le score PGA (*Physician Global Assessment*), à 12 semaines. La qualité de vie, les suintements et saignements, le retentissement fonctionnel et esthétique seront évalués en critères secondaires. Le passage systémique du sirolimus sera évalué par un dosage sanguin du sirolimus à 6, 12 et 20 semaines.

*Discussion.* Pour les patients atteints de MLMC, pathologie rare et sans traitement satisfaisant à ce jour, le sirolimus topique pourrait être une option thérapeutique non invasive et bien tolérée. Si l'étude démontre l'efficacité et la bonne tolérance du sirolimus topique 0,1% chez les patients ayant une MLMC, il pourrait alors devenir le traitement de première intention et conduire ainsi à un réel changement dans la prise en charge de cette pathologie.

**Mots clés :** Malformation lymphatique microkystique cutanée, lymphangiectasie, sirolimus, rapamycine, inhibiteur de mTOR, topique, malformation vasculaire

### Jury :

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Directeur de thèse :	Professeur Annabel MARUANI
Membres du Jury :	Professeur Bruno GIRAUDEAU
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Date de soutenance : 15 Novembre 2018