# Do liberal thresholds for red cell transfusion result in improved quality of life for patients undergoing intensive chemotherapy for acute myeloid leukemia? A randomized crossover feasibility study

Suzy Morton,<sup>1,2</sup> Mallika Sekhar,<sup>3,4</sup> Heather Smethurst,<sup>5</sup> Ana Mora,<sup>5</sup> Renate L. Hodge,<sup>5</sup> Cara L. Hudson,<sup>6</sup> Joseph Parsons,<sup>6</sup> Valerie Hopkins<sup>5</sup> and Simon J. Stanworth<sup>7,8,9</sup>

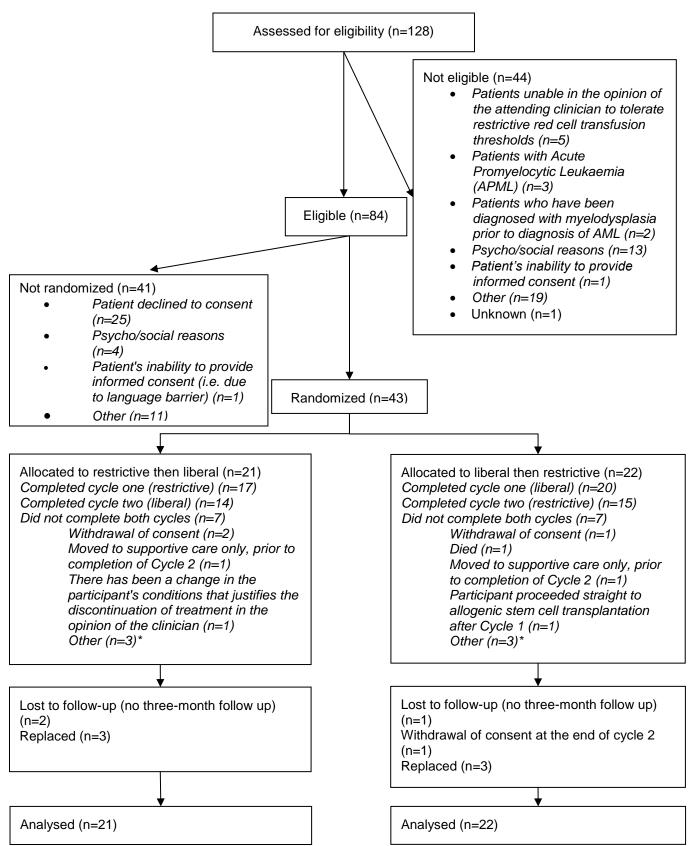
<sup>1</sup>Department of Clinical Hematology, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, Birmingham; <sup>2</sup>Medical Department, NHS Blood and Transplant, Birmingham; <sup>3</sup>Department of Hematology, University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, London; <sup>4</sup>Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, Department of Hematology, London; <sup>5</sup>Clinical Trials Unit, NHS Blood and Transplant, Cambridge; <sup>6</sup>Clinical Trials Unit, NHS Blood and Transplant, Bristol; <sup>7</sup>Department of Clinical Hematology, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Oxford; <sup>8</sup>Clinical Department, NHS Blood and Transplant, Oxford and <sup>9</sup>Radcliffe Department of Medicine, University of Oxford, and NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Center, Oxford, UK

### Correspondence:

SUZY MORTON - suzy.morton@nhsbt.nhs.uk https://doi.org/10.3324/haematol.2021.279867

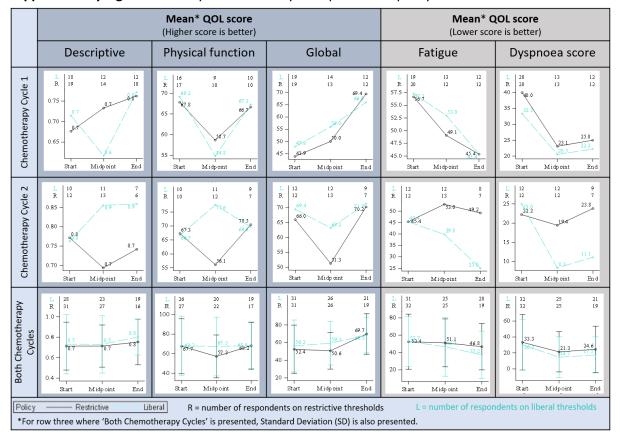
### **Supplementary information**

## Supplementary Figure 1: CONSORT diagram



<sup>\*</sup> Intermittent withdrawal of consent (2 in 'Restrictive then Liberal' and 1 in 'Liberal then Restrictive')

# Supplementary Figure 2: Quality of life score by time period and policy



# **Supplementary Table 1:** Discontinuation of trial treatment

Centre	Arm	Stage of	Reason given	Further information	Withdrew consent for
number		withdrawal			data collection
1	L/R	After Cycle 1 (did not proceed to cycle 2)	Participant given poor prognosis Felt they were allocated to restrictive arm	Participant was allocated to liberal strategy for cycle 1	Yes
1	R/L	Cycle 1 Day 16	Participant had too much to think about		Yes
3	R/L	After Cycle 1 (did not proceed to cycle 2)	Participant felt they were allocated to restrictive threshold and that was too low		No
3	L/R	Cycle 2 Day 30 (Last day)	Participant felt they were allocated to restrictive threshold and that they were excessively tired due to that		No
Addition	ally, the follo	owing participants ag	reed to restart the trial on the subsequ	ent cycle	
2	R/L	Cycle 1 Day 20	Participant felt very unwell	Participant re-consented to continue for Cycle 2.	No
2	R/L	Cycle 1 Day 7	Hemoglobin dropped to 50 g/L and Participant felt this would not have happened off trial Participant did not feel 90 g/L was appropriate for second cycle either Participant did not feel QoL was robust	Participant withdrew consent after Cycle 1 but re-consented to cycle 2.	No
2	L/R	Between Cycle 1 & Cycle 2	Participant did not feel they could tolerate lower threshold for cycle 2	Participant withdrew consent after first chemotherapy cycle as felt unwell. Later reconsented to continue with second chemotherapy cycle.	No

L= Liberal cycle; R= Restrictive cycle