

## **Patient Q&A on lipid arm termination**

### **Is the whole study going to stop?**

No, the whole study is not going to stop. All 19,000 patients are going to continue in the study. It is only the lipid lowering part which is going to be stopped. The blood pressure lowering part, i.e. the main part of the study will continue as usual for the next few years.

### **Why is part of the study being stopped?**

The ASCOT Study is asking the question: "are the newer blood pressure tablets more effective in preventing heart attacks and other serious illnesses such as strokes than the traditional tablets?" In a sub-section of the trial, an additional question is also being asked: whether cholesterol-lowering tablets would help prevent heart attacks and strokes. It has been shown that they were indeed helpful in doing so. This part of the study has now been stopped because the question has been answered. Please note the blood pressure part of the trial which affects everyone continues unaffected.

### **What is going to happen with my drugs?**

For the moment you must carry on taking all your drugs as normal and it is most important that you do so. When you are seen at your local ASCOT clinic, the doctor there will advise you if any of your tablets need to be changed or stopped.

### **Should I contact my local ASCOT clinic to make an appointment to see my doctor?**

Most patients will be contacted by their local clinics (unless you have been told otherwise) with new appointments, if they do not have one already. If you already have an appointment, please make sure you keep it.

### **Where can I get further information about what is happening to the ASCOT trial?**

The people who know most about the ASCOT trial and how it affects you in particular are the doctors and nurses at your local ASCOT centre.

Please do not hesitate to give them a ring if you are at all unsure what you should be doing, or if you require more information.

**What is going to happen to me now?**

Everything within ASCOT will carry on as normal. You may be called to your clinic for an extra visit, and your tablets may at that point be adjusted. Meanwhile, ASCOT will continue for another couple of years for all patients.

We hope that you and all the other 19,000 people in the ASCOT trial will continue to help until the study finally closes.

**I was in the lipid limb. When will I know if I was on the real tablet or the inactive one?**

We will not be able to give you this information until all the patients in the lipid part of the trial have been seen by their ASCOT clinic and all the information gathered has been looked at. This will probably take until the end of January 2003.

**If the lipid-lowering tablets have been shown to be so effective, will I be able to continue taking them?**

We are hoping to make the lipid lowering tablets available to all patients who were in the lipid limb of the trial, if you and your ASCOT doctor feel this is right for you. The lipid lowering tablets you have been taking will be stopped as this part of the trial has now finished.

It is of the utmost importance to remember that the main blood pressure lowering part of the ASCOT trial continues unchanged.