

TCS/18/30 – Pravastatin for the treatment of preterm labour, a pilot study (PIPIN)

Preterm birth (early delivery – before 37 weeks) affects 1 in 10 babies born in Scotland, and is a leading cause of death and ill health in early life. The aim of this study is to see if a trial to test whether drugs called statins can prevent preterm birth is possible. We have shown that statins prevent preterm birth in an animal model of pregnancy. The proposed pilot/feasibility study will show what proportion of women are willing to participate in a trial of statins, demonstrate any barriers to participation, and identify how many hospitals we will need to involve and for how long.

The results of the study described here, will support a funding application for a larger trial to test whether statins, given to women with signs and symptoms of preterm labour, will reduce the risk of preterm birth and improve babies' health, without major side effects.