

Inclusion criteria

All patients referred with a clinical and radiological diagnosis of SAH will be considered suitable on satisfying the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

To be included in the study:

1. Male or female subjects, aged 18-65 years, in whom the admitting neurosurgeon has confirmatory evidence of an aneurysm, either by CT angiography, MR angiography or DSA.
2. Any clinical grade accepted provided a reasonable prospect of survival.
3. Delay to randomisation and initiation of trial medication, from the time of the presenting ictus, does not exceed 96 hours.
4. Independent prior to the SAH.
5. Informed consent given.

Exclusion criteria

The presence of any of the following will preclude patient inclusion:

1. Unsalvageable patients: fixed and dilated pupils after resuscitation, and/or a devastating scan, which precludes definitive therapy.
2. Already taking statin therapy.
3. Those taking warfarin type drugs.
4. Pregnancy.
5. Known significant renal or hepatic impairment.
6. Suspected or known additional disease process, which threatens life expectancy.
7. Known or strong suspicion of significant drug abuse, alcoholism, or those who are unlikely to be amenable to 6 month follow up.
8. Those already taking amiodarone, verapamil or potent CYP3A4 inhibitors (refer to current version of SmPC [summary of product characteristics] for Ritechol).