SUPPLEMENT ARTICLE

Rationale and Design Issues of the Randomized Intervention for Children With Vesicoureteral Reflux (RIVUR) Study

Ron Keren, MD, MPH, Myra A. Carpenter, PhD, Alejandro Hoberman, MD, MPH, Nader Shaikh, MD, MPH, Tej K. Mato, MD, Russell W. Chesney, MD, Ranjiv Matthews, MD, Arlene C. Gerson, MD, Saul P. Greenfield, MD, Barbara Fivush, MD, Gordon A. McLurie, MD, H. Gil Rushton, MD, Douglas Canning, MD, Caleb P. Nelson, MD, Lawrence Greenbaum, MD, PhD, Timothy Bukowski, MD, William Primack, MD, Richard Sutherland, MD, James Hosking, PhD, Dawn Stewart, MS, Jack Elder, MD, Marva Moxey-Mims, MD, Leroy Nyberg, MD

Departments of *Pediatrics, †Urology, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Departments of ‡Biostatistics, §Urology, ‖Pediatrics, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; †Department of Pediatrics, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; ‡Department of Pediatrics, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, Michigan; †Department of Pediatrics, Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center, Memphis, Tennessee; Departments of Urology, †Pediatrics, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland; ‡Department of Urology, Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, Winston-Salem, North Carolina; †Department of Urology, Children’s National Medical Center, Washington, DC; ‡Department of Urology, Children’s Hospital Boston, Boston, Massachusetts; †Department of Pediatrics, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia; ‡Department of Urology, Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio; †National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive Kidney Disease, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

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ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVE. Our goal is to determine if antimicrobial prophylaxis with trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole prevents recurrent urinary tract infections and renal scarring in children who are found to have vesicoureteral reflux after a first or second urinary tract infection.

DESIGN, PARTICIPANTS, AND METHODS. The Randomized Intervention for Children With Vesicoureteral Reflux (RIVUR) study is a double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial. Six hundred children aged 2 to 72 months will be recruited from both primary and subspecialty care settings at clinical trial centers throughout North America. Children who are found to have grades I to IV vesicoureteral reflux after the index febrile or symptomatic urinary tract infection will be randomly assigned to receive daily doses of either trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole or placebo for 2 years. Scheduled follow-up contacts include in-person study visits every 6 months and telephone interviews every 2 months. Biospecimens (urine and blood) and genetic specimens (blood) will be collected for future studies of the genetic and biochemical determinants of vesicoureteral reflux, recurrent urinary tract infection, renal insufficiency, and renal scarring.

RESULTS. The primary outcome is recurrence of urinary tract infection. Secondary outcomes include time to recurrent urinary tract infection, renal scarring (assessed by dimercaptosuccinic acid scan), treatment failure, renal function, resource utilization, and development of antimicrobial resistance in stool flora.

CONCLUSIONS. The RIVUR study will provide useful information to clinicians about the risks and benefits of prophylactic antibiotics for children who are diagnosed with vesicoureteral reflux after a first or second urinary tract infection. The data and specimens collected over the course of the study will allow researchers to better understand the pathophysiology of recurrent urinary tract infection and its sequelae. Pediartics 2008;122:240–250

The randomized intervention for children with vesicoureteral reflux (RIVUR) study is a multicenter, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial designed to evaluate the effectiveness of antimicrobial prophylaxis in children who are found to have vesicoureteral reflux (VUR) after a first or second urinary tract infection (UTI). The RIVUR study represents a collaboration of many clinical trial centers throughout North America, a central data-coordinating center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). In this article we describe the methodologic issues that were considered in designing the RIVUR study protocol and the rationale for the study design.
PARTICIPANTS, SETTING, AND PROTOCOL

The RIVUR study inclusion and exclusion criteria and study setting were specified to enroll children from study populations with a high prevalence of disease, to maximize generalizability of study results, and to ensure safety of the participants.

Participants

Children aged 2 to 72 months are eligible for enrollment in the RIVUR study. The age inclusion criterion for the RIVUR protocol was selected in an attempt to enroll children during the time at which they are most likely to have VUR and UTI. VUR is a condition that is present at birth and generally resolves or improves over time.1-3 The timing of first UTI in children generally follows a bimodal distribution, with many infants presenting in the first year of life and a second wave of infections occurring between 2 and 4 years of age during the toilet-training years.4,5 After 6 years of age, new-onset UTIs in children are relatively infrequent and often associated with dysfunctional elimination6,7 or initiation of sexual intercourse. Despite the fact that girls are more likely to have UTIs than boys,4,5,8,9 we chose to include both genders to increase generalizability of study findings. The RIVUR study exclusion criteria (Table 1) were designed to exclude children with serious chronic diseases and to avoid the risks of prophylactic trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (TMP/SMZ) in certain children. We plan to enroll 600 children over a 2-year period and follow them for 2 years.

Setting

Five core clinical trial centers (Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia [Philadelphia, PA], Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh [Pittsburgh, PA], Children’s Hospital of Michigan [Detroit, MI], Johns Hopkins School of Medicine [Baltimore, MD], and Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo [Buffalo, NY]) and an additional 14 satellite sites are enrolling or planning to enroll patients in the RIVUR protocol (see Table 2 for complete list of all participating sites). Extending recruitment to 19 centers increases the likelihood of meeting enrollment targets and enrolling a geographically, racially, and ethnically diverse patient population from which our results can be more readily generalized. Unlike previous VUR studies, which recruited children largely from subspecialty care practices, RIVUR study participants will be recruited from a variety of clinical settings, including the offices of primary care pediatricians, urologists, and nephrologists, as well as pediatric emergency departments and inpatient wards. Recruiting children with UTI from the primary care outpatient setting will greatly enhance the generalizability of study findings to that setting in which most pediatric UTIs are initially diagnosed and managed.

Protocol

The recruitment and follow-up plan for the protocol is outlined in Fig 1 and has been approved by the local institutional review boards at the clinical sites and the data-coordinating center. The protocol has also been approved by an independent data and safety monitoring board that will review safety and efficacy data periodically throughout the study. The trial also received permission to proceed from the Food and Drug Administration on the basis of Investigational New Drug Application 75739.

Children with febrile or symptomatic UTIs (F/S UTIs) will be identified in a variety of clinical settings. At some centers the study team will coordinate voiding cystourethrogram (VCUG) imaging to identify children with VUR who are eligible for the study. At other centers, children will be recruited after VUR is identified in the course of routine evaluation of a UTI. Children will need to have their VCUGs and renal ultrasounds completed within 16 weeks of the index UTI to be eligible for enrollment in the study. The trial will be described to parents of eligible children, and informed consent will be obtained. At the first visit, we will verify children’s eligibility, randomly assign the study participants, and collect baseline data and specimens (blood, urine, and stool). Children will have a baseline dimercaptosuccinic acid (DMSA) scan within 16 weeks of the index UTI. Parents will receive a 6-month supply of study medication along with educational materials about UTI and VUR and a diary for recording intercurrent fever, symptoms, medication use, and medical care visits. Scheduled follow-up contacts include in-person study visits every 6 months and tele-

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**TABLE 1** Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria for the RIVUR Trial

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inclusion Criteria</th>
<th>Exclusion Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at randomization: at least 2 mo but &lt;6 y of age, note that children as young as 1 mo may be screened for the study</td>
<td>UTI diagnosis &gt;112 d before randomization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosed first or second F/S UTI within 112 d before randomization</td>
<td>For children &lt;6 mo of age at randomization, gestational age &lt;34 wk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of grade I to IV VUR on the basis of radiographic VCUG performed within 112 d of diagnosis of index UTI</td>
<td>Comorbid urologic anomalies*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriately treated index F/S UTI</td>
<td>Known sulfa allergy, G6PD deficiency, or other conditions that are contraindications for use of TMP/SMZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of other renal injury/disease</td>
<td>History of other renal injury/disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unable to complete the study protocol</td>
<td>Unable to complete the study protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congenital or acquired immunodeficiency</td>
<td>Congenital or acquired immunodeficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underlying anomalies or chronic diseases that could potentially interfere with response to therapy such as chronic gastrointestinal conditions (ie, malabsorption, inflammatory bowel disease), liver or kidney failure, or malignancy</td>
<td>Underlying anomalies or chronic diseases that could potentially interfere with response to therapy such as chronic gastrointestinal conditions (ie, malabsorption, inflammatory bowel disease), liver or kidney failure, or malignancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex cardiac disease</td>
<td>Complex cardiac disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syndromes associated with VUR or bladder dysfunction</td>
<td>Syndromes associated with VUR or bladder dysfunction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index UTI not treated successfully</td>
<td>Index UTI not treated successfully</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Hydronephrosis, Society for Fetal Urology (SFU) grade 4, ureterocele, urethral valve, solitary kidney, profoundly decreased renal size unilaterally on ultrasound, multicystic dysplastic kidney, neurogenic bladder, pelvic kidney or fused kidney.

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phone interviews every 2 months. A complete blood count will be obtained at every study visit to monitor for signs of leukopenia caused by TMP/SMZ, and a DMSA scan will be performed at 12 months to detect any subclinical progression in renal scarring. The end-of-study visit will include additional data and specimen collection, a VCUG, and a final DMSA renal scan.

Table 3 summarizes observations and procedures that will occur during the trial. Parents will complete surveys to assess dysfunctional voiding symptoms,10 constipation,11 and quality of life12 at each study visit. The parents’ diary will be reviewed at each study visit and each telephone contact to identify any interim UTIs not reported to the study team, other serious illnesses, or antibiotic courses. Measures of renal function obtained at baseline and at study exit will include a urinalysis, urine microalbumin/creatinine ratio, and serum creatinine, electrolytes, and cystatin C levels. Rectal swabs will be obtained at baseline and study exit to assess for resistant Escherichia coli in the stool.

Parents of enrolled children will receive educational materials (both printed and Web based) and ongoing counseling about early signs and symptoms of UTI to promote early diagnosis and treatment of UTI recurrences. Management of suspected and actual UTIs will be performed by the child’s primary care provider with close involvement of the study investigators to ensure that the patients receive proper diagnosis and treatment and that the study team is able to collect all relevant data about recurrences (duration and severity of signs and symptoms, culture result, antibiotic susceptibilities, etc).

**TABLE 2** RIVUR Clinical Trial Centers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>City, State, Country</th>
<th>Recruitment Sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia</td>
<td>Philadelphia, PA</td>
<td>PCP, ED, UP, IS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, PA</td>
<td>PCP, ED, UP, IS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johns Hopkins School of Medicine</td>
<td>Baltimore, MD</td>
<td>PCP, ED, UP, IS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Hospital of Michigan</td>
<td>Detroit, MI</td>
<td>IS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo</td>
<td>Buffalo, NY</td>
<td>PCP, ED, UP, IS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Hospital Boston</td>
<td>Boston, MA</td>
<td>PCP, ED, UP, NP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Hospital of Columbus</td>
<td>Columbus, OH</td>
<td>PCP, ED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Mercy Hospital</td>
<td>Kansas City, MO</td>
<td>UP, NP, IS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Children’s Hospital</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
<td>UP, NP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Alabama at Birmingham</td>
<td>Birmingham, AL</td>
<td>PCP, UP, NP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s National Medical Center</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>PCP, ED, UP, NP, IS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Oklahoma</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK</td>
<td>UP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cincinnati Children’s Hospital</td>
<td>Cincinnati, OH</td>
<td>PCP, UP, IS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfred I. du Pont Hospital for Children</td>
<td>Wilmington, DE</td>
<td>PCP, UP, IS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penn State Hershey Medical Center</td>
<td>Hershey, PA</td>
<td>PCP, ED, UP, NP, IS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Memorial Hospital</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>PCP, ED, UP, NP, IS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center</td>
<td>Winston-Salem, NC</td>
<td>PCP, ED, UP, NP, IS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Wisconsin Children’s Hospital</td>
<td>Madison, WI</td>
<td>PCP, ED, UP, NP, IS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akron Children’s Hospital</td>
<td>Akron, OH</td>
<td>PCP, ED, UP, NP, IS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*PCP indicates primary care practice; ED, emergency department; UP, urology practice; NP, nephrology practice; IS, inpatient service.*

DEFINITIONS: UTI AND VUR

**UTI**

We will restrict enrollment to children who experience a first or second UTI to assemble an inception cohort of children with a low likelihood of previous UTI-associated renal scarring. Children with a history of 2 previous UTIs are eligible for enrollment only if their VUR was diagnosed after the second UTI. Children who were diagnosed with VUR or received prolonged antimicrobial prophylaxis between the first and second UTI will be excluded.
Our criteria for defining UTI are more stringent than might be used in clinical practice (Table 3); thus, some children with true UTI may not be eligible for enrollment. By requiring evidence of pyuria and excluding children diagnosed by bag urine collection, those with <50,000 colony-forming units per mL, and those with >1 isolated organism, the sensitivity of our diagnostic criteria may suffer, but specificity will be improved, thus increasing the probability that the children enrolled have true UTI and not asymptomatic bacteriuria or contaminated urine specimens.

The steering committee debated whether to restrict enrollment to children with febrile UTI and exclude afebrile children who only have urinary symptoms (dysuria, frequency, urgency). One reason to study only children with febrile UTIs is that UTI associated with fever is more likely to represent pyelonephritis, which, unlike isolated cystitis or urethritis, can result in renal scarring and the associated sequelae that prophylactic antibiotics are intended to prevent. However, for several reasons, the committee decided to include children who had UTIs associated with either fever or symptoms referable to the urinary tract. First, several studies have demonstrated that the presence of fever does not accurately discriminate between pyelonephritis and cystitis in children with UTI. Second, the absence of fever (and pyelonephritis) with the index UTI does not mean that subsequent UTIs will be afebrile or restricted to the lower urinary tract. Thus, prophylactic antibiotics may confer a benefit to children diagnosed with an afebrile UTI who are at increased risk of developing a second UTI that could involve fever and pyelonephritis. Finally, the consensus of the committee was that clinicians do not always distinguish between febrile and afebrile UTIs in making decisions about subsequent evaluation and management. Similarly, the American Urological Association’s practice guideline on management of VUR also does not distinguish between febrile and afebrile UTIs in its recommendations for imaging and treatment. Therefore, from a practical perspective, we thought cli-
nicians would be interested in the effectiveness of prophylactic antibiotics for children who present with either febrile or afebrile but symptomatic UTI. Given what we know about the epidemiology and clinical presentation of UTIs, we anticipate that the majority of enrolled children younger than 2 years will present with febrile UTIs and few symptoms referable to the urinary tract, whereas children 2 to 6 years of age will more commonly present with afebrile UTIs and more symptoms referable to the urinary tract. Unlike previous studies of interventions for VUR, the RIVUR study provides explicit and specific inclusion criteria that will permit subgroup analyses (eg, difference in outcomes among children with febrile versus nonfebrile index UTI) and enhance interpretability and generalizability of the results.

**VUR**

The steering committee considered a variety of VUR grades (Fig 2) in developing the inclusion criteria. The choices included restricting participants to (1) those with higher-grade VUR (III–V) who are known to have the highest risk of developing renal scars and, thus, may benefit the most from prophylactic antibiotics; (2) those with low-grade VUR (I–III) who account for the majority of children with VUR who are affected by current guideline recommendations concerning prophylaxis; and (3) all grades of VUR except grade V to avoid withholding potentially beneficial therapy from children with a very high risk of recurrent UTI and renal scarring. These choices reflected the tension commonly encountered in designing clinical trials between targeting children with the greatest chance of benefiting from an intervention, maximizing the generalizability of the findings by including children with the highest prevalence of disease, and excluding children for whom there may not be equipoise regarding the risks and benefits of a placebo-controlled trial. The steering committee decided on the third option, excluding only children with grade V VUR, who the committee members did not feel comfortable potentially randomly assigning to placebo, but including all other grades of VUR to enhance generalizability.
INTERVENTION
Children will be randomly assigned to receive daily doses of either TMP/SMZ or placebo for 2 years. The choice of TMP/SMZ as the active drug was based on the high prevalence of sensitivity of *E. coli* to TMP/SMZ at the clinical trial sites, its acceptability by physicians at the clinical trial sites, and its favorable safety profile. Nitrofurantoin was considered as an alternative prophylactic agent but was not chosen because of common complaints of nausea and vomiting in children who take it on a daily basis. TMP/SMZ is contraindicated in children with glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency. Although rare, severe reactions including Stevens-Johnson syndrome may occur in some children. The steering committee considered having a “back-up” prophylactic antibiotic (and placebo) produced to use in these situations, but the cost was prohibitively high and not justified given the relatively low prevalence of G6PD deficiency and occurrence of Stevens-Johnson syndrome. The dose of prophylactic TMP/SMZ cited in previous trials and drug references ranges from 2 to 5 mg/kg of TMP administered once daily. Because study-drug refills will be provided every 6 months, we chose to prescribe the TMP/SMZ (or corresponding volume of placebo) at a dose of 3 mg/kg per day to avoid under-dosing of TMP/SMZ at the end of the 6-month interval as the child gains weight.

OUTCOMES AND HYPOTHESES
Recurrent UTI
We will evaluate multiple outcomes for this study (Table 4). The primary outcome is the development of recurrent F/SUTI during the 2-year follow-up period. A recurrent F/SUTI will be defined as an infection >14 days after the end of appropriate treatment of the index UTI, after a negative urine culture, or infection with a new organism. We will also measure the time to first recurrent F/SUTI, which will allow us to include patient data in situations in which there is censoring (loss to follow-up or no UTI during the study period) and also to determine if prophylactic antibiotics prolong the time to recurrent F/SUTI.

Our primary hypothesis is that the proportion of children with a recurrence of F/SUTI will be lower among those in the antimicrobial prophylaxis group than in the placebo group. We also hypothesize that the time to first recurrence of F/SUTI will be shorter in the placebo group than in the antimicrobial prophylaxis group.

TABLE 4  Definition of UTI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Febrile UTI (F/UTI)</th>
<th>Symptomatic Nonfebrile UTI (S/UTI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Fever</td>
<td>I. Symptoms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documented temperature of at least 100.4°F or 38°C, measured anywhere on the body either at home or at doctor's office</td>
<td>Suprapubic, abdominal, or flank pain or tenderness, or urinary urgency, frequency, or hesitancy, or dysuria, or foul-smelling urine, or in infants ≤4 mo old, failure to thrive, dehydration, or hypothermia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and</td>
<td>and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Pyuria on urinalysis</td>
<td>II. Pyuria on urinalysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥10 WBCs per mm³ (uncentrifuged specimen)</td>
<td>≥10 WBCs per mm³ (uncentrifuged specimen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥5 WBCs per hpf (centrifuged specimen)</td>
<td>≥5 WBCs per hpf (centrifuged specimen)</td>
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<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trace or more leukocyte esterase on dipstick</td>
<td>Trace or more leukocyte esterase on dipstick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and</td>
<td>and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Culture-proven infection with a single organism</td>
<td>III. Culture-proven infection with a single organism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥5 × 10⁴ CFU per mL (catheterized or suprapubic aspiration urine specimen)</td>
<td>≥5 × 10⁴ CFU per mL (catheterized or suprapubic aspiration urine specimen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥10⁵ CFU per mL (clean voided specimen)</td>
<td>≥10⁵ CFU per mL (clean voided specimen)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WBC indicates white blood cell; hpf, high-powered field; CFU, colony-forming units.
Renal Scarring

A secondary outcome of interest is the development of renal scarring. All children will have a baseline DMSA scan within 2 weeks after random assignment, and no more than 16 weeks after the index UTI, to determine the presence of cortical defects. For most participants, we will determine the incidence and extent of renal scarring with a DMSA scan obtained 24 months after the index UTI. For children who are deemed “treatment failures” (see below), we will use the outcome scan to assess the scarring end point at an earlier time point. For these children, we will obtain the outcome scan 4 months after the recurrence of UTI that leads to classification as treatment failure versus left kidney. Absolute uptakes will not be obtained. Using criteria established by Majd and coworkers,22,23 defects will be classified as APN or preexistent renal scarring. These evaluations will be made by 2 reference nuclear medicine investigators on the Imaging Studies Reading and Classification Committee.

Treatment Failure

We derived a composite outcome of treatment failure from the frequency and rate of F/SUTI reoccurrence or identification of new or worsening renal scarring. Treatment failure is defined as follows:

1. In any participant:
   - occurrence of 2 recurrent FUTIs or a total of 4 recurrent F/SUTIs within the study period or
   - interim 12-month scan that shows new or worsening scarring at a site different from the index APN or worsening scarring evidenced by extension of a preexistent scar seen on the baseline DMSA scan (note that the interim scan may serve as the outcome DMSA scan in these participants)

2. In children with baseline scarring grade 3 or higher:
   - children whose initial DMSA scan shows grade 3 or higher scarring in either kidney will have a repeat DMSA performed at the time of any recurrent FUTI; if additional renal segment involvement is observed (APN or scar) compared with the baseline scan, then the child will be categorized as a treatment failure and have an outcome DMSA scan at ~4 months after the FUTI.

We designed this treatment-failure outcome as a safety measure to minimize the risk of severe renal scarring. For children with severe renal scarring diagnosed
on the baseline DMSA scan, we added an extra level of safety by requiring repeat DMSA scans for any recurrent UTIs to identify new areas of pyelonephritis or scarring. All treatment failures will be discontinued from study medication or placebo and referred to local urologists for further evaluation and treatment but will continue to be followed for the full 2 years after enrollment. We hypothesize that the proportion of children classified as treatment failures will be lower among those in the antimicrobial prophylaxis group than in the placebo group.

**Antimicrobial Resistance**

In addition to determining the potential benefits of prophylactic antibiotics (prevention of UTIs and renal scarring), we will also consider their risks. Continuous exposure to antimicrobial prophylaxis is predicted to alter the microbial flora in the urine and stool of treated children and result in recurrent infections with resistant organisms. We hypothesize that (1) the proportion of children who develop stool *E coli* resistant to TMP/SMZ will be greater in the antimicrobial prophylaxis group than in the placebo group and (2) the proportion of children with recurrent *E coli* urinary tract infection caused by TMP/SMZ-resistant organisms will be greater in the antimicrobial prophylaxis group than in the placebo group. Ancillary studies have been initiated to evaluate the impact of other antibiotic usage and environmental exposures (eg, daycare) on stool *E coli* resistance and to determine the impact of TMP/SMZ prophylaxis on *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Staphylococcus aureus* carriage and resistance.

**Resource Utilization**

Finally, we will collect information about resource utilization during scheduled telephone calls and intermittent chart review. We will record the number of study visits (scheduled and unscheduled), visits to the emergency department or primary care physician, imaging studies, laboratory tests (urine/blood), days of missed work caused by urinary tract–related visits, days on which alternate day care arrangements were made, antibiotics used for UTIs or other conditions, and hospitalizations.

**COVARIATES**

In addition to obtaining extensive data on demographic and clinical characteristics of the children and their presenting UTI signs and symptoms, we plan to collect information on several important covariates that may either confound or modify the effect of prophylactic antibiotics on recurrent UTI and renal scarring.

**Dysfunctional Voiding**

Dysfunctional voiding refers to overactivity of the bladder and/or pelvic floor muscles during the voiding phase of the micturition cycle. It is relatively common in the pediatric population (prevalence of ~15%) and is often underdiagnosed and undertreated by primary care physicians. Approximately 40% of toilet-trained children with their first UTI and 80% of children with recurrent UTI report symptoms of dysfunctional voiding. In a study of 141 girls ≥3 years of age with recurrent (≥3) UTIs, 108 (77%) had dysfunctional voiding symptoms.

Dysfunctional voiding also is a risk factor for persistence of VUR and renal scarring. Dysfunctional voiding is best assessed through urodynamic studies, but these tests are invasive and uncomfortable for most children. Noninvasive studies to identify contracted pelvic floor muscles with voiding include uroflowmetry, surface electrode electromyography, and measurement of ultrasound postvoid residual volume. The dysfunctional voiding scoring system (DVSS), developed and validated by Farhat et al, is a noninvasive questionnaire for identifying symptoms of voiding dysfunction and monitoring compliance with therapy.

The steering committee discussed the utility of invasive and noninvasive urodynamic studies to assess dysfunctional voiding as part of the trial but decided against it because (1) they would not be informative for children younger than 2 years old, whom we anticipate will make up the majority of study participants, and (2) for the minority of children older than 2 years, the tests would add considerable cost, inconvenience, and potential disincentive to recruitment. The RIVUR study will use only the DVSS to assess dysfunctional voiding symptoms. A score of >6 in female and >9 in male children ≥3 years of age will be considered evidence of dysfunctional voiding.

**Constipation**

The presence of constipation will be assessed by using definitions published by the Paris Consensus on Childhood Constipation Terminology (PACCT) Group. According to the PACCT Group, chronic constipation in the toilet-trained child is defined as the occurrence of ≥2 of the following during the previous 8 days:

- frequency of bowel movement <3 per week;
- more than 1 episode of fecal incontinence per week;
- large stools in the rectum or palpable on abdominal examination;
- passing of large stools that may obstruct the toilet;
- display of retentive posturing and withholding behaviors; and
- painful defecation.

**Adherence**

The effectiveness of prophylactic antibiotics is likely to be related to the consistency with which the child receives them. Previous studies have documented poor adherence to daily prophylactic antibiotic regimens for VUR, but none have measured the impact of adherence on the effectiveness of prophylaxis. Recognizing the importance of adherence as a potential effect modifier, the steering committee sought to measure it as accurately as possible. Medication Event Monitoring System (MEMS) caps are considered the gold standard for measuring adherence in clinical trials. The MEMS cap is a medication bottle cap with an embedded micro-
chip to record bottle openings and has been used for adult studies to measure the dispensing of pills or tablets from bottles. However, the RIVUR trial involves liquid medicine and placebo, and the MEMS cap has not been used to measure adherence with a liquid medicine for a 2-year study period. To test its feasibility as a tool for measuring adherence in the RIVUR study, a pilot study was performed. Unfortunately, during the pilot study the crystals in the liquid TMP/SMZ caused the plunger in the MEMS cap to jam, preventing it from accurately counting the number of times that the bottle was opened. For this reason, the RIVUR trial steering committee decided to forego the use of MEMS caps for measurement of adherence.

Instead, the trial will rely on 2 separate measures of adherence. First, parents will be asked to bring their study-medicine bottles to each study visit so that the bottle can be weighed to calculate the volume of medicine that was dispensed in the previous 6 months. Also, every 2 months (by telephone call and semiannual in-person study visits) research staff will ask parents about the frequency with which they administered the study medicine in the previous week and previous 2 months.

### STATISTICAL METHODS

#### Power Analysis

Power calculations were based on a simple comparison of the difference in proportion of events between treatment groups. Table 5 presents estimates of the study power for a range of plausible event rates and treatment effects. The calculations assume that the event rate in the placebo group will be either 20% or 25%. The event rate in adherent children in the active treatment group is assumed to be 10%. All calculations assume a type I error rate of $\alpha = 0.05$ (2-sided).

In estimating the effect of nonadherence, including drop-out, we assumed that children in the treated group who drop out or are noncompliant have the same rate of F/SUTIs as those in the placebo group (i.e., no treatment effect). Because many of those children will receive some active therapy for some period of time, this is a somewhat conservative assumption. To adjust for these effects, the observed event rate in the treated group was estimated as a blend of the unadjusted event rates for the 2 groups (Table 6). Thus, for example, if the event rate in the placebo group is 20%, the nonadjusted event rate in the treated group is 10%, and nonadherence/attrition rate is 15%, the adjusted event rate in the treated group will be $(0.10 \times 0.85) + (0.20 \times 0.15) = 0.115$.

These analyses suggest that we will have adequate power to detect a clinically significant treatment effect over a wide range of assumptions about the placebo event and nonadherence/attrition rates.

#### Statistical Analysis Plan

A detailed statistical analysis plan has been developed. The primary efficacy analysis will be a Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test stratified according to clinical site on an intention-to-treat data set; an unstratified analysis will also be performed. Secondary analyses for the primary end point will use logistic regression to adjust for severity of VUR at baseline and other prognostic variables. Subgroup analyses will be performed to estimate treatment effects according to age, gender, baseline severity of VUR, and other covariates by using logistic regression models. Also, additional safety and tolerability analyses are planned. Interim efficacy analyses will be performed on the basis of a schedule approved by the data and safety monitoring board. The overall type I error rate will be controlled by using a Lan-DeMets spending function. Conditional power will also be estimated at the time of interim efficacy analyses.

The primary analysis of the dichotomous secondary outcomes (treatment failure, renal scarring, and antimicrobial resistance) will also be a Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test stratified according to clinical site and using the intention-to-treat principle. Additional analyses adjusting for covariates will use logistic regression. The primary analysis of time to recurrent F/SUTI will use a stratified log-rank test.

#### Repositories and Ancillary Studies

Biospecimens (urine and blood) and genetic specimens (blood) from participants for whom appropriate consent has been obtained will be collected, processed, and submitted to the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases specimen and genetics repositories at baseline and after the 24-month visit. These specimens will serve as material for ancillary studies to understand the genetic and biochemical basis for VUR, recurrent UTI, renal insufficiency, and renal scarring. An ancillary study committee has been formed and drafted a policy for ancillary studies using repository specimens and/or data collected during the RIVUR study.

### CONCLUSIONS

The RIVUR study will provide useful information to clinicians about the risks and benefits of prophylactic antibiotics for children who have had a first or second UTI and are found to have VUR. The data and specimens collected over the course of the study will allow re-

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**TABLE 5** Estimated Power

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Placebo Event Rate</th>
<th>Nonadherence/Attrition Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**TABLE 6** Event Rate in Treated Group, Adjusted for Nonadherence/Attrition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Placebo Event Rate</th>
<th>Nonadherence/Attrition Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0.105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>0.108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
searchers to better understand the pathophysiology of recurrent UTI and its sequelae.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This research was supported by grant U01DK074059 from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services.

This article honors the memory of Dr James D. Hosking, a superb clinical trials biostatistician and systems designer. As an integral member of the RIVUR Steering Committee, his experience and expertise were critical to the development of this protocol.

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Rationale and Design Issues of the Randomized Intervention for Children With Vesicoureteral Reflux (RIVUR) Study


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