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INTRODUCTION

Palliative thoracic radiotherapy is widely used in advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Historical fractionation studies demonstrated effective symptom control and improved survival at higher doses, but these were conducted before the advent of modern systemic therapies. Advances in radiotherapy planning and delivery now permit higher doses with reduced toxicity, yet no studies have evaluated the optimal timing, dose, or fractionation of palliative radiotherapy. To address this, the UK National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) funded TOURIST platform trial has been established. It will deliver a series of randomised controlled trials across scenarios where palliative radiotherapy is used in advanced NSCLC with the objective to determine quality of life, clinical and cost effectiveness.

METHODS

TOURIST is a pragmatic, multi-centre, phase III platform trial design currently including the PRINCE and QUARTZ LUNG trials.

PRINCE includes patients who are deemed fit to receive systemic anti-cancer treatment.

QUARTZ LUNG includes patients where systemic anti-cancer treatment is not planned.

Both PRINCE and QUARTZ LUNG include RT Quality Assurance and have a process and economic evaluation.

TOURIST includes significant patient and public involvement (PPI) in the development and running of the trials. The PPIs have varied lived and research experience.

Recruitment started in the UK in July 2024 with the Republic of Ireland joining the trial in Q2/3 2026.

PROGRESS



MORE INFORMATION



Trial infographic



Trial information

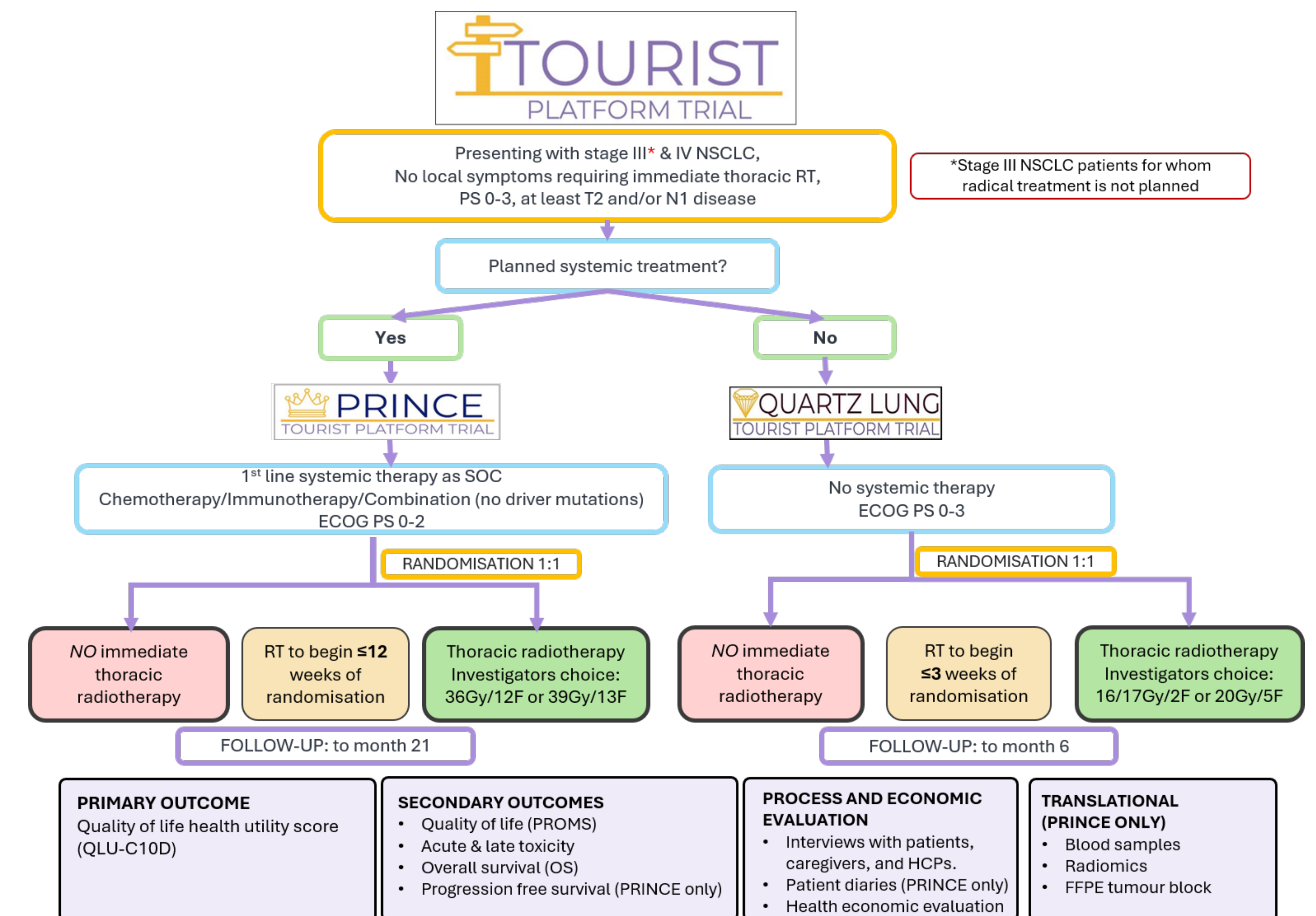
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ISRCTN REG #: ISRCTN17123858.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Disclaimer

No artificial intelligence (AI) tools were used in the development, drafting, analysis, interpretation, or preparation of this poster.

TRIAL SCHEMA



PRINCE

Is a phase III trial of first line systemic treatment and radiotherapy in stage III (not radically treatable) and IV NSCLC.

472 participants to be randomised (1:1) to standard of care (SoC) systemic therapy +/- early high-dose palliative thoracic radiotherapy (investigator choice of 36Gy/12F or 39Gy/13F - CT-planned, 3-D conformal, IMRT, VMAT and Rapid Arc) and will begin within 84 days of randomisation and between cycles 1 and 4 of systemic therapy.

The primary endpoint is health utility (EORTC QLU-C10D) over 21 months. Secondary endpoints include QoL, acute and late toxicity, overall survival and progression-free survival.

QUARTZ LUNG

Is a phase III trial of quality of life after radiotherapy treatment for patients with stage III (not radically treatable) and IV NSCLC who are not having systemic therapy.

448 participants to be randomised (1:1) to SoC versus low-dose palliative thoracic radiotherapy (investigator choice of 16Gy/2F, 17Gy/2F or 20Gy/5F).

The primary endpoint is health utility (EORTC QLU-C10D) over 6 months. Secondary endpoints include QoL, acute and late toxicity and overall survival.

A number of new sub-trials are in development.