

## DECISION GRID FOR THESEUS STUDY

	What does it involve?	Is the treatment suitable for me?	Potential benefits of treatment	Possible side effects / problems	When can I start treatment?	For how long will I be on the treatment?
<b>Doxycycline</b>	Taking two doxycycline capsule by mouth each morning	Designed for multiple affected regions. Usually the first tablet treatment considered	Reduction in inflammation (pus, pain); no effect on scarring	Stomach upset such as pain and loose motions. A few people may be more sensitive to sunlight	Immediately	6 months
<b>Clindamycin &amp; Rifampicin</b>	Taking two clindamycin and one rifampicin capsule by mouth each morning and evening. A blood test is needed before starting treatment and after four weeks.	Designed for multiple affected regions	Reduction in inflammation (pus, pain); no effect on scarring	Orange urine and tears; stomach upset such as pain and diarrhoea; increase in liver blood tests, interference with some hormonal contraception and other medications – your doctor will advise	Immediately	10 weeks initially, with the option to continue or re-start
<b>Laser Treatment</b>	A laser will be passed across affected areas of skin. You will wear protective eyewear during the procedure. Pain relief can be taken before treatment	For one or a few active skin regions. Choice of laser depends on your skin pigmentation (a suitable laser may not be available at your centre)	Reduction in inflammation (pus, pain) in the short term and possibly longer	Local skin pain during procedure and for a few days afterwards. Permanent change in skin colour (lighter or darker) may occur. There is a small chance of scarring or infection	Depends on waiting list at your centre	At least 4 treatments will be given, each one month apart.
<b>Deroofing</b>	After a pain killing local anaesthetic injection, the roofs of individual skin tunnels are removed, the wound base heals naturally, covered by a dressing	For individual skin tunnels and areas of scarring	Aims to stop discharge of pus from areas of scarring that often flare in the same place	Local skin pain during procedure and for a few days afterwards. Localised scarring, wound infection. Duration of wound healing depends on area of skin removed and can take several weeks with daily dressing changes. New lesions are not prevented	Depends on waiting list at your centre	Usually one treatment is enough, however deroofing can be performed again
<b>Surgical excision</b>	Varies from removal of small areas of skin under local anaesthetic, closed with stitches, to large areas under general anaesthetic, healed with dressings /skin graft / flap	Usually treats only one skin region at a time to avoid too many skin wounds in one go	Removal of areas of active disease, scarring and, in some cases, surrounding skin at risk of flaring later	Local skin pain during procedure and after. Scarring, bleeding, wound infection; rarely nerve damage, problems with general anaesthetic. Duration of wound healing varies and can take several months with daily dressing changes. Skin grafts and flaps may not be successful	Depends on waiting list at your centre	Small procedures can be repeated, larger ones are allowed to heal before any further surgery

