

SECRETO Newsletter

August 2020

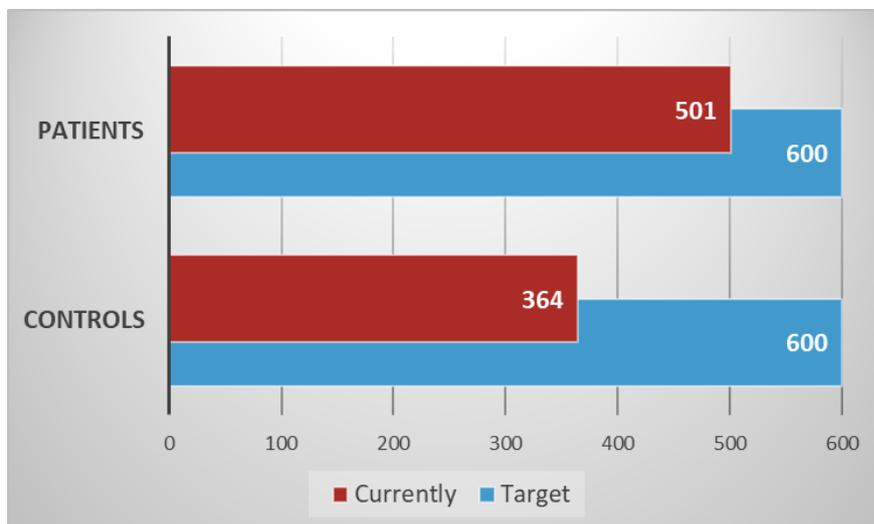
Recruitment status and goals

Again, one milestone has been crossed as **500th study patient** has been recruited to SECRETO. Huge thanks to the centers that were able to recruit in July despite these uncertain times: Greifswald, Germany, Reggio Emilia, Italy, Tampere, Finland, and Oulu, Finland.

The final spurt is about to begin in order to get 99 more study patients recruited. Because recruitment has slowed down due to problems caused by Covid-19, a reasonable target date to reach this goal would be in May 2021, i.e. by the ESOC Conference.



There is a bit more work to be done in recruiting controls matched with age, gender, and ethnic group. The current number of controls is 364. It is good to remember that controls are not required to be exactly age-matched with the patients but can be aged +/- 5 years. This is a practical and commonly used method and any small effects of possible age difference will be addressed by adjusting with multivariable methods.



Controls can be found e.g. among hospital staff and patients' nonrelated proxies. Social media can be used to inform about the study, however, such an advertisement may be subject to ethical evaluation depending on local rules. One option to recruit (population-based) controls is to apply access to a Population Registry to obtain mailing or phone lists of potential control subjects. This option is dependent on local regulations and existence of such registries. Whatever source is used to identify controls, it is highly important to put efforts in their recruitment in order to end up with an adequately powered study.

Overall, recruitment is progressing favorably despite the challenging times. It is very possible to reach the target by May 2021, if coronavirus does not further mess up the plans and we manage to work together towards our goal!

Stay safe and take care of yourself and your family as well as your colleagues and your patients.

