



SECRETO Newsletter

June 2020

Given the challenges posed by Covid-19, our goal to complete the recruitment for SECRETO needs to be reassessed. Yet, despite the difficult times, the recruitment has continued in some centers. A huge thanks to all active recruiters!

Recruitment status and goals

Up until today, **492 patients** and **358 controls** have been enrolled. That means 82% of the target number of patients and 60% of the target number of controls. The pandemic has expectedly affected the recruitment pace but not stopped it.

At the moment, it is reasonable to set our target to complete the patient recruitment at May 2021, which is also the time of next year's ESOC meeting to be held in Helsinki, Finland, if the situation allows. Reachable milestones before that include a total of 550 patients and 450 controls by the ESOC 2020 in Vienna, Austria in November.

To reach our targets, recruitment of participants should be resumed as soon as it is possible and safe.

Topical news

An abstract based on the preliminary SECRETO results was submitted to ESOC 2020 by Dr. Nina Jaakonmäki, and accepted as an oral e-poster presentation: **abstract #3779, title: "Lupus anticoagulant as an independent risk factor for early-onset cryptogenic ischemic stroke: the SECRETO study."**

Laboratory analysis of coagulation assays will continue in this fall. Furthermore, we have started centralized analyses of basic plasma biomarkers, including hs-CRP and lipids.

Now is the time to start planning data analysis and dissemination of the results. The first steps include collecting manuscript plans via email or

GoogleDrive, and discuss them in more detail in teleconferences/meetings. Because there is still uncertainty as to whether a physical study meeting at the ESOC 2020 in Vienna is possible, teleconferences seem a better option and enable better participation.

Data monitoring

We continuously monitor the data entered in OpenClinica. It is of utmost importance to keep your data up to date. Also, please schedule and organize follow-up contacts in a timely manner.

OpenClinica enables working with queries, familiar from randomized trials. You may e.g. be asked to check discrepancies or complete missing data entries. Please respond to queries and/or propose a resolution in a timely manner.

Invoicing

The costs incurred by the SECRETO Study will be covered by a grant from the Academy of Finland, distributed among five Finnish university hospitals taking part in the Study (the Finnish Consortium).

A half a year ago we asked you to submit invoices for recruited study subjects, and address it to one of the members of the Finnish Consortium. We also asked you to send us - the Coordinating Center - a copy of the invoice so that we can keep track of the payments. We have received a couple of copies, however, many are still missing. Accordingly, if not already done so, **please send a copy of the invoice to anu.erakanto@hus.fi.**

When you continue recruiting participants into the study, carefully consider the overall well-being and best interests of the participants and research staff in relation to local Covid-19 situation.

"A little progress each day adds up to big results!"