

ICUROS Newsletter

Number 1 February 2008

Introduction

Welcome to the first number of the ICUROS newsletter which will inform about the current status and recent events in the International Costs and Utilities Related to Osteoporotic Fracture Study (ICUROS). The newsletter will be issued 4 times per year during the course of the study. If you want to be added to the distribution list for coming newsletters send an email to icuros@healthconomics.se.

What is ICUROS?

ICUROS is an international prospective data collection study investigating the costs and health effects related to osteoporotic fractures. Patients are enrolled in the study at their first health care visit related to a fracture and thereafter followed for a period of 18 months. The intention is to include several countries to investigate potential differences in quality of life and fracture related costs. The ICUROS will lead to better information regarding the burden of osteoporosis in the participating countries and worldwide, which will increase the awareness of osteoporosis.

The ICUROS is endorsed by the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) and is administered by i3Innovus (formerly European Health Economics). IOF supports ICUROS as part of the Invest in Your Bones Campaign. In addition, the study is partly funded by a consortium of sponsors, currently consisting of Novartis, Kyphon, Wyeth, Amgen and Servier.

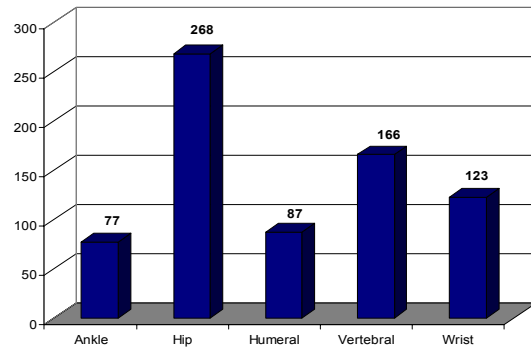
Countries involved

ICUROS has received much attention by lead researchers across the world. Investigators from several countries have joined the study and are in different stages of the study. Investigators in the following countries are actively involved in the study: Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Spain, UK and the USA. So far, the retrieval of sufficient funding has been the key hurdle for initiating patient enrolment in each country.

Patient inclusion started

Four countries have started to enrol patients (Russia, Italy, Austria and Lithuania). A few countries are expected to start enrolling patients within the coming months (France, UK and Spain). In total, over 600 patients have been included so far and the first patients have also passed phase II. In the figure

below, an overview of the number of patients per fracture type included is depicted.



Russian investigators meeting

A meeting with the Russian ICUROS investigator team was held in Uglich, Russia in January. At the meeting, the project implementation was discussed and experiences were exchanged between the different research centres. It was a very productive meeting which will lead to the continuous excellence in the Russian implementation of the study. Currently, about 500 Russian patients have been included and the aim of 1 300 patients included in total is projected to be achieved within 2008.

ECCEO 8

At the Eighth European Congress on Clinical and Economic Aspects of Osteoporosis and Osteoarthritis (ECCEO 8) in Istanbul, Turkey, 9-12 April, the first results coming from the ICUROS will be presented. The abstract entitled "Quality of life reduction immediately after an osteoporotic fracture in Russia" can be viewed as a poster form and will be presented between 13.45 and 15.00 on Thursday, April 10.

Also, at the ECCEO 8, there will be organised meetings for current and future sponsors and investigators. These meetings will be held during the afternoon and evening Thursday April 10th. If you are interested to attend at any of these meetings please send an email to icuros@healthconomics.se for further information.

Contact information

If you are interested to know more about the ICUROS you can visit the study website (www.icuros.org) or contact either Fredrik Borgström (fredrik.b@healthconomics.se) or Ingrid Lekander (Ingrid.l@healthconomics.se).