

European Pharmacogenetic Opioid Study (EPOS)

The EPOS study examines symptoms, pharmacogenetics and pharmacology related to the use of opioids in order to improve the scientific basis of better individual tailored pain treatment. The international cooperation is facilitated by the participation in the study by the Research Steering Committee of the European Association for Palliative Care.

The primary aim of the project is to study genetic variation that influence the efficacy of opioid used for treatment of cancer pain. In addition the study will publish several publications concerning themes such as genetics and adverse effects, opioids and pharmacokinetics, pain assessment, cognitive function, patient barriers towards pain treatment, sleep and cachexia.

The study has included 2294 cancer patients treated with opioids for moderate or severe pain. The study recruited patients from 17 centres from 11 European countries. The inclusion is closed. The database with clinical and genetic data for known candidate genes is completed. The pharmacological analyses of opioid serum concentrations are close to be finalized. Analyses of the data are initiated and the first publication will be submitted this year.

Participants:

Principle investigator: Pål Klepstad (pal.klepstad@ntnu.no)

Genetic laboratory: Frank Skorpen

Pharmacological laboratory: Ola Dale

Statistician: Peter Fayers

Centres: Trondheim NORWAY (Stein Kaasa), Oslo, Ullevål NORWAY (Jon Håvard Loge), Oslo, Radiumhospitalet NORWAY (Kristin Bjordal), Copenhagen DENMARK (Per Sjøgren), Sutton/Chelsea UNITED KINGDOM (Andrew Davies), Forli ITALY (Marco Maltoni), Pavia ITALY (Danilo Miotti), Milan ITALY (Alessandra Pigni, Augusto Caraceni), Essen GERMANY (Marianne Kloke), Aachen GERMANY (Lucas Radbruch), Dresden GERMANY (Rainer Sabatowski), Reykjavik ICELAND (Valgerdur Sigurdardottir, Sigrídur Gunnarsdottir), St. Gallen SWITZERLAND (Florian Strasser), Vilnius LITHUANIA (Irena Poviloniene), Stockholm SWEDEN (Staffan Lundström), Turku FINLAND (Eeva Salminen) and Athens GREECE (Eriphili Argyra)