

Report about the activities of the Nordic Urothelial Cancer Group of the Scandinavian Urological Association 2011

As has been the practice for about a decade, the members of the urothelial cancer group have gathered annually, in early March, for the working group meeting at Sigtuna. Members from all four larger countries were present in the latest meeting in March 2011, when the main topics were 1) a so-called biobank project (tissue specimen collections for tissue microarray purposes from patients belonging to inter-Nordic studies of the group); 2) preliminary results from a FinnBladder PDD study; 3) introduction of and preliminary evaluation of participation in a planned English BRAVO study (cystectomy vs. BCG in patients with high-grade T1 tumors); 4) WEB presentation of the Magnolia study by F Witjes from EAU. Additionally, there were a report from an ongoing Swedish multicenter study and two reports of findings related to a coming or completed dissertation.

The topics listed above illustrate well the types of activity that the group has been and will be involved; it has been a forum of conducting some fine, large, and prestigious inter-Nordic trials as well as a forum for fruitful discussions and interchange of ideas. As for clinical trials, the current activities are directed to gathering long-term follow-up data from patients belonging to the Nordic CIS study and Bladder Sparing study, the results of which will be published, without doubt, in the best possible international forum.

Finally, in order not be blamed of too much self-praise, we have to admit that there is an urgent need, within the group, for designing and initiating a new inter-Nordic study, which would be approved by most of the members for enough randomisations to take place. Currently, the obstacles preventing the launching of such a study are (at least) the following ones: increasing administrative regulations, general tiredness, more important needs for conducting a study regionally as well as the inevitable aging of the members of the group.

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Secretary of the group