

Biological identification of recurrence after curative intended radiotherapy for carcinoma of the head and neck. A DAHANCA 19 study.

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My PhD-study was initiated August 2020. Tissue tumor samples both from primary tumor site and from recurrences have been collected from all centers.

Next step was to identify the data (scans and patient journals from time of recurrence) needed for point of origin analysis of recurrent HNSCC and initiate collection of this from the different oncological departments in Denmark. This process is still ongoing, but all methods of export/import of data have been established, as well as the software needed for the analyses.

Regarding the tumor specific markers and NGS of the tumor tissue, pilot analyses have been carried out and optimization of the methods is ongoing. The aim is to have a fully functional method established primo 2021, where after the tissue analyses will be completed.

Relevant literature for the subject have been reviewed. Relevant available courses have been attended along with the ESTRO 2020 Congress.

The first goal for 2021 is to submit an abstract for the ESTRO congress with results from recurrence pattern analysis on the DAHANCA 19-cohort. The analyses for stem cell markers, HPV p16 and hypoxia planned to be carried out primo 2021. The NGS-analyses are planned to commence in 2021. Data will be processed continuously when data needed for the specific papers are collected. My plans for the abroad stay in Oslo with the aim of collecting data on the Norwegian subgroup in DAHANCA 19 has been postponed due to Covid-19. Hopefully, with the introduction of vaccines my travel plans can be resumed in 2021.