

Scandinavian Sarcoma Group board meeting, Malmö, May 4 2011

Participants: Kirsten Sundby Hall, Otte Brosjö, Mikael Eriksson, Thor Alvegård, Anders Rydholm, Jan Åhlén, Fredrik Vult von Steyern, Eva-Mari Olofsson, Lotta Våde, Calle Blomqvist

Excuse: Bodil Bjerkehagen, Paula Lindholm, Halldór Jónsson jr., Øyvind Bruland, Mikael Skorpil, Jacob Engellau

1. SSG plenary meeting 2013

The next plenary meeting, scheduled for 2013 in Helsinki, has been moved from May to October, not to interfere with the EMSOS meeting in Gothenburg in May that year. The dates have now been decided to October 9-11. Calle Blomqvist, present at the board meeting, is appointed as the locally responsible.

As a possible subject, the similarities and differences between the treatment for adults and children with sarcoma, is considered. Furthermore, it has been proposed to include the special educational biology day, which has been arranged in connection with the present and the former plenary meeting, within the general meeting. This suggestion will be considered in the planning of the next meeting, but no final decision is taken.

As a consequence of postponing the next plenary meeting to October 2013, it was further decided to also postpone the working group meeting that year from December 2013 to February 2-4, 2014.

2. Pathology group – travel expenses and representation

The regularly review meetings of the pathology group are expensive, and it has been suggested that the travel costs should be applied for by the members of the group from their employer, whereas hotel and meals will be covered by SSG also in the future. The board approved the idea, but since it is possible that single members may be denied this support it was decided that all members must apply, but if impossible to get travel money they will take contact with the SSG board for discussion of SSG reimbursement.

Since the Danish sarcoma centres now are increasing their participation in SSG, it was decided that one Danish pathologist also will be appointed to the group. Ole Steen Nielsen accepted the responsibility for this process, and will shortly report the appointed member to the chairman of the pathology group. The corresponding action may be considered for Iceland in the future if the Icelandic participation in SSG will increase; Iceland was not represented at this board meeting.

3. New studies

A present EU application for EURAMOS-2 has not been successful, and we will have to consider different possibilities for national or common Scandinavian (NCU?) applications to finance this up-coming project, which will substitute EURAMOS-1, closing for new registrations at June 30 this year. The study will, regarding younger patients with resectable disease, compare the standard regimen of MAP with or without addition of zoledronic acid. Two other cohorts are planned; for elderly patients and for patients with not resectable metastases; the designs of these are not finally settled. Further reports concerning the project will follow.

The GSK-supported study on pazopanib in third line treatment for GIST is for the moment in final negotiations with GSK regarding budget etc. Hopefully, this project, that may have participation from four or five of the Nordic countries, may start in early autumn.

A period of early discussions with SOBI, the pharmaceutical company Swedish Orphan Biovitrum, producing Multiferon, has ended with the decision from SOBI to be the sponsor for a non-randomized (preliminary) study with this drug in desmoids tumors (fibromatosis). Probably, French centres will also be invited. An informal discussion will be held with SOBI and some representatives of SSG at the present plenary meeting.

Jan Åhlén reported that Stockholm and Oslo will formally apply for participation in the planned EORTC study on preoperative radiotherapy in retroperitoneal sarcomas. SSG will thus not participate as an organization. About 15 sites are planned to participate in different European countries.

4. Revised publication rules

At the SSG registry meeting preceding the board meeting it has been decided to suggest an advisory committee to review applications of withdraws from the registry. The board approved this group and its suggested members as follows: Clement Trovik (chair), Anders Rydholm, Martin Erlanson, Calle Blomqvist, Olga Zaikova, Peter Holmberg-Jørgensen.

5. ISG/SSG II

This study on metastatic osteosarcoma performed by the SSG in collaboration with Italian Sarcoma Group (ISG) has never been reported by the Italian researcher who had planned to do so. Therefore, this study that has included 39 Scandinavian and 21 Italian patients, will now instead be reported by SSG; and the responsibility for this will be taken by Kirsten Sundby Hall and her colleague at the Norwegian Radium Hospital, Kjetil Boye.

6. Registration of fibromatosis in the Central Registry

It was recently decided that fibromatosis (desmoids tumours) will not any longer be registered in the SSG registry. Since we now are approaching a study on this tumour category (see point 3 above!) this question has been raised again. However, since it has turned out that only Oslo has ever registered these patients, the former decision was not changed.

7. New web-page

Otte Brosjö reported on the present development of a new web-page by a skilled web-designer in Stockholm, Erik Hertsius.. This will be nicer in layout, more modern and effective than the present one. Otte Brosjö will be responsible for the content, the mentioned web-designer Erik Hertsius for the layout, and Eva-Mari Olofsson for publishing.

8. Regional Cancer Centres in Sweden

Jan Åhlén reported about an on-going process in Sweden forming new regional steering centres for cancer care. This will also have an impact for the sarcoma care in Sweden, hopefully by a further centralization to sarcoma centres with increased

quality as a consequence. A report regarding this organization has been sent to Jan Åhlén for consideration, and he will get assistance from Mikael Eriksson to give a response within a couple of weeks.

9. Meetings

Next working group meeting will be held at DGI-byen in Copenhagen November 28-29 this year, preceded by board meeting at November 27. The working groups must send their program to chairman Kirsten Sundby Hall (k.s.hall@klinmed.uio.no) not later than September 15. Next plenary meeting will be arranged in Helsinki in 2013 – see point 1 above!

10. SSG economy

The economy is presently well balanced. The sponsor support from Amgen has been 200,000 SEK per year the last two years. We have also a grant of 100,000 yearly from the Swedish Cancer Fund guaranteed until 2013. This plenary meeting has in total 14 sponsors. However, we have not been granted any funding from the Nordic Cancer Union (NCU) for the present period.

Lund, Oslo and Stockholm 2011-05-18

Mikael Eriksson
Secretary

Kirsten Sundby Hall
Chairman

Otte Brosjö
Chairman