Annual report

Study Groups

Title of the study group: OA Trial Bank

Study Group Leader’s name: Marienke van Middelkoop
Date of annual report submission: 15 March 2016

Summary of last year’s activities

Half-yearly steering committee meetings have been organised in which all steering committee members participated, including two patient representatives from Keele, UK.

Pilot study on intra-articular glucocorticoid injections for hip and knee OA

We have finished our pilot study last year and published the results recently in Osteoarthritis and Cartilage:


Ongoing initiatives

Subgroup analysis on the effectiveness of glucosamine in patients with knee or hip osteoarthritis using individual patient data meta-analysis.

The primary aim is to evaluate the effectiveness of glucosamine is subgroups of knee and hip osteoarthritis patients. Pre-defined subgroups are: severe vs. less severe pain, BMI <27 kg/m2 vs. ≥27kg/m2, male vs. female, and if available less vs. more severe structural abnormalities and absence vs. presence of inflammation. All analyses will be done un-stratified and stratified for affected joint and glucosamine type.

Status of project:
A systematic search of the literature identified 20 eligible studies of which the corresponding authors have been contacted. After extensive efforts, 14 studies could not be included in the current study (4 not willing, 1 data disposed, 1 not allowed by study sponsor, 1 unable to retrieve data, 5 unable to contact authors/institutions, 2 willing to participate, but never received any data). Five out of the 6 participating studies concerned knee osteoarthritis patients.

Currently, all participating partners have signed the license agreement and about 95% of the requested data has been transferred to the OA Trial Bank. All data management activities have been finalized and first analysis have been performed. Final results of all pre-defined analyses are expected by April 2016.

Leading role: Erasmus MC University Medical Center Rotterdam, Jos Runhaar, PhD; Sita Bierma-Zeinstra, PhD
Relative efficacy of topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and topical capsaicin in osteoarthritis: protocol for an individual patient data meta-analysis

The primary aim for this study is to investigate the relative treatment effects of topical NSAIDs and topical capsaicin in OA and to identify patient-level predictors of treatment response.

Status of project:
Protocol has been written and authors will be approached in the upcoming months.

Leading role: University of Nottingham, Monica Persson, PhD; Weiya Zhang, PhD

Identifying placebo responders and predictors in osteoarthritis

The overall aim of this project is to identify placebo responders and to examine predictors of placebo response in patients with OA. The key objectives are:

1) To identify placebo responders in the OA Trail Bank data for topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), topical capsaicin, intra-articular (i.a.) glucocorticoid injections, and glucosamine/chondroitin products.

2) To compare characteristics of placebo responders and non-responders;

3) To explore predictors of placebo response.

Status of project:
Protocol has been written and authors will be approached in the upcoming months.

Leading role: University of Nottingham, Yu Fu, PhD; Weiya Zhang, PhD

Several other initiatives to start up new studies under the umbrella of the OA Trial Bank have been undertaken by different groups on several subjects (i.e. exercise therapy for knee and hip OA; Vitamin D for OA, arthroscopic interventions in OA).