



Nordic Society of Paediatric Haematology and Oncology

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Childhood Cancer in the Nordic and Baltic Countries  
Report on Epidemiologic and Therapeutic Results from Registries and Working Groups

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## Foreword

Dear NOPHO friends and colleagues

On behalf of all of you and the registration team in Stockholm, I am happy to present the NOPHO Annual Report 2020.

NOPHO was formally established in 1984, and I believe that ever since, the members have gathered each year to share their experiences, research results and to do networking – all with the aim of improving treatment outcomes including survival and minimizing the risk of late effects for our patients. Over the last few months we have experienced the danger of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has limited our participation in NOPHO working group meetings as well as international meetings. Arranging working group meetings as Zoom-meetings have become very popular, and it has proved very useful instead of physical meetings, mainly because we are a society, where we know each other very well.

The Annual Meeting 2020 (the 38<sup>th</sup> NOPHO Annual meeting and 13<sup>th</sup> NOBOS Biannual meeting) was planned to take place in Trondheim, but it has been cancelled due to the pandemic. The organizing committees for NOPHO and NOBOS have been working hard planning the scientific program and social events, and thanks to the great kindness and flexibility of the next two years organizers in Kuopio and Lund, it has been possible to push the meeting in Trondheim a year and thus the subsequent two meetings.

Even though the Annual Meeting 2020 is cancelled, the Annual Report is hereby presented with the core of our efforts over in the past year and many years before that. The annual report is the result of great dedication among research nurses, doctors, the registration team in Stockholm, our webmaster and everyone involved in paediatric haematology and oncology in the Nordic and Baltic countries.

The efforts for creating a broader international network and treatment protocols are important for movement of the results even more. However, our close collaboration in the Nordic and Baltic countries remains extremely important in maintaining enthusiasm and commitment within the society.

As always, it is a great pleasure and honor for me to work with my Nordic and Baltic colleagues in our joint cause of improving the lives of our patients.

Take care – and see you physically after the COVID-19 crises.

Aarhus, April 15<sup>th</sup> 2020

Birgitte Klug Albertsen  
Secretary General

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## NOPHO Board

### Members 2019 - May 2020

<b>Secretary- -general -elect</b>	Birgitte Klug Albertsen	elected 2018
	Trond Flaegstad	elected 2018
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mathias Rathe	elected 2019
<b>Auditors of accounts</b>	Gustaf Ljungman	elected 2005
	Peder Skov Wehner	elected 2019
<b>Stand in auditor of accounts</b>	Svein Kolmannskog	elected 2005
<b>Denmark</b>	Bodil Als-Nielsen	elected 2018
	Mathias Rathe	elected 2019
	Yasmin Lassen (radiotherapy)	elected 2018
<b>Finland</b>	Kaisa Vepsäläinen	elected 2016
	Mikko Arola	elected 2017
<b>Iceland</b>	Ólafur Gísli Jónsson	elected 2000
	Sólveig Hafsteinsdóttir	elected 2013
<b>Lithuania</b>	Goda Vaitkeviciene	elected 2016
	Rolanda Nemaniene	elected 2019
<b>Norway</b>	Anne Grete Bechensteen	elected 2017
	Tove Nystad	elected 2017
<b>Sweden</b>	Helena Mörse	elected 2018
	Tony Frisk	elected 2019
<b>Pediatric surgery</b>	Jakob Stenman	elected 2019
<b>Young NOPHO</b>	Laura Madanat-Harjuoja	elected 2018

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## NOPHO Secretariat and Webmaster

### **NOPHO Secretariat**

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## NOPHO Scientific committee

### Members 2019-2020

<b>Sweden</b>	Kees-Jan Pronk (co-chair -exited SciCom beginning of 2020) Anna Nilsson (since autumn 2019)
<b>Denmark</b>	Bodil Als-Nielsen
<b>Finland</b>	Matti Korhonen
<b>Iceland</b>	Ragnar Bjarnason
<b>Lithuania</b>	Sonata Trakymiene
<b>Norway</b>	Maria Winther Gunnes
<b>Young NOPHO</b>	Nikolas Herold, SE (co-chair until beginning of 2020, currently only chair)

The deadline for applications for NOPHO studies is about 2 months before each NOPHO board meeting (but can be adjusted if circumstances require), often just following the LL-Biology group meeting as many of the applications often also require to be presented at that meeting. For the June 2019 term, 16 new applications were submitted of which 9 were accepted and 7 have been given the possibility to re-submit a revised proposal; in addition, 4 re-submitted and revised proposals from previous rounds have been accepted. For the November 2019 term, 6 new applications were submitted and evaluated, 5 of which were accepted. For the June 2020 term, the deadline for the applications is March 16<sup>th</sup>. All newly and previously accepted NOPHO projects from 2008 onwards can be seen at [https://www.nopho.org/member\\_pages/member\\_area/science/nopho\\_sc\\_study\\_db/Archive/Default.aspx](https://www.nopho.org/member_pages/member_area/science/nopho_sc_study_db/Archive/Default.aspx).

Projects were uploaded using the platform: <https://manuscriptmanager.net/nopho>. The applications are sent to all members of the Scientific Committee, as well as to relevant external reviewers (i.e. non-members of the SciCom) with the appropriate competence and/or position within NOPHO. For each application term, the scientific committee has held a 1-2 hour telephone conference some weeks after the application deadline, where the applications have been thoroughly discussed before evaluation notes were subsequently drafted, and circulated to the NOPHO Board to make a final decision on the applications.

During last year's period, SciCom was co-chaired by Kees-Jan Pronk and Nikolas Herold.

During the November 2019 telephone meeting, all proposed candidates for the 2020 NOPHO Lecturer prize were discussed. 3 candidates were selected and presented to the NOPHO board, that subsequently decided on the eventual 2020 NOPHO Lecturer.

Prior to the application deadline March 2020, Anna Nilsson succeeded Kees-Jan Pronk as Swedish representative, and we thank Kees-Jan for his 5 years of contribution to the Scientific Committee, the last three years of which as chair of the SciCom.

Stockholm, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Nikolas Herold, on behalf of the SciCom of NOPHO

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# Young NOPHO

## Young NOPHO Board in 2019-2020

<b>Denmark</b>	Stine Nygaard Nielsen, Sofie Gottschalk Højfeldt
<b>Finland</b>	Anu Suominen, Laura Madanat-Harjuoja (chair)
<b>Iceland</b>	Thorgerdur Gudmundsdottir
<b>Lithuania</b>	Monica Kapitancuke
<b>Norway</b>	Simon Kranz, Kirsten Brunsvig Jarvis
<b>Sweden</b>	Nikolas Herold, Mari Wilhelmsson

Last year the annual meeting of Young NOPHO (YN) was held on the 3rd of May, 2019 at the annual NOPHO meeting in Aalborg, Denmark. The minutes from the meeting and the regulations of YN can be found at the NOPHO website. After the annual meeting the YN members had a group photo in the evening followed by an invitation for an annual YN dinner sponsored by Barncancerfonden.



A total of 13 people participated in the meeting. As on previous years, this year we used the topics from the Annual NOPHO meeting in planning our meeting program. Thus the Annual YN meeting which preceded the Annual NOPHO meeting served as an introduction hereto. As participants include young clinicians specializing in pediatrics or pediatric oncology or PhD students, this type of an introduction to the subject seemed relevant to the audience.

The annual YN meeting program was divided into a clinical and a research session. The topics of the clinical session were: introduction to central nervous system tumors, an introduction to diagnosing and treating hemophilia (presented by pediatric hematologist-oncologist Satu Långström), and one clinical case on hemophilia and one brain tumor case. During the annual YN meeting the YN board members (Nikolas Herold on behalf of Simon Kranz) presented the introduction to CNS tumors and the relevant clinical case on hemophilia was presented by YN member Liisa Järvelä.

The clinical session was followed by a research session, in which the YN board selected two abstracts for oral presentation. Laura Seppälä presented her PhD project on preterm birth and risk of childhood cancer.

Jonathan Gronbaek presented the Nordic-European study of the Cerebellar Mutism Syndrome. YN Board member Mari Wilhelmsson presented on hospitalizations in long term survivors of childhood AML – A report from the ALiCCs study. After the meeting, 8 participants joined us for a networking dinner.

The fall Young NOPHO meeting, held from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, 2019 was organized in Stockholm, Sweden. The meeting began on Friday with a brainstorming dinner followed by an educational component in the form of an Educational day on Pediatric Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation at Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm. A total of 28 participants (including 4 lecturers) took part in the educational day, including colleagues working in pediatric oncology in Stockholm, Uppsala, Umeå, Helsinki, Oslo, Tromsø, Bergen and Estonia. Nurses and researchers in the field of pediatric oncology also took part in the educational day. Mikael Sundin gave a lecture on Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation: the indications, auto vs. allo, choosing a donor, conditioning, the procedure, practical aspects” as well as “Acute toxicities, Graft-versus- Host Disease”. Per Ljungman spoke about “Viral infections after HSCT”, Mari Wilhelmsson a YN Board member gave a talk on “Late effects after pediatric HSCT” and Stephan Mielke gave a lecture on “The role of CAR T-cells”. The seminar was followed by a networking dinner.

The Working Group Board meeting was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November with the main goal of planning the next Annual Young NOPHO Meeting program to be held in Trondheim, Norway on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2020. Apart from organizational and constitutional points the following key aspects were discussed:

- A. The theme of the next YN meeting was decided on as “Genetic Predisposition to Childhood Cancer and Targeted Therapies”
- B. Possible lecturers were discussed and organizational tasks for the YN meeting were delegated to YN Board members
- C. Discussion on how to increase collaboration across borders. We talked about the possibility of initiating a fellowship exchange between the Nordic countries allowing fellows to learn from the expertise of other Nordic centers in the form of a 1-2 week observership
- D. We discussed how to increase participation in Young Nopho
- E. A proposition of having the next Board meeting and Educational day in Tromsø in 2020, as the next chair, Simon Kranz is based there

All in all, we had a productive working group meeting. It is our mission to increase collaboration between Young NOPHO members also in between the annual NOPHO meetings and to catalyze Young NOPHO- driven research and education. We have to increase the active participation of Young NOPHO members. This is a challenge due to the large geographical distances and busy clinical schedules. Nevertheless, we already have substantial improvements and want to follow up on this development.

The YN board would like to thank the Swedish Childhood Cancer Foundation (Barncancerfonden) for supporting all YN related meetings in 2019 and 2020 and the next annual meeting in Trondheim, Norway that has been postponed due to the corona virus pandemic to the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2021.

Last but not least we would like to thank all YN members for their activities and energy invested in 2019 to 2020, for making YN a more active and collaborative WG. Thank you!

10<sup>th</sup> of May, 2020

On behalf of the YN board,

Laura Madanat-Harjuoja Finland, YN Chair

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## Participating clinics/institutions/physicians

Through the years, many colleagues in NOPHO have been involved in treating and reporting of childhood cancer. The main contributors are listed below:

<b>Denmark</b>	Copenhagen	Kjeld Schmiegelow, Karsten Nysom, Birgitte Lausen, Astrid Sehested, Marianne Ifversen, Lisa Hjalgrim, Jesper Brok, Rene Mathiasen, Bodil Als-Nielsen, Marianne Hoffmann, Mimi Kjærsgaard, Katja Harder
	Odense	Peder Skov Wehner, Eckhard Schomerus, Niels Fisker, Michael Callesen, Mathias Rathe, Dorthe Grosen
	Aarhus	Henrik Hasle, Birgitte Klug Albertsen, Torben Mikkelsen, Pernille Edslev Wendtland, Karin Bækgaard Nissen, Ines Kristenen, Torjus Skajaa, Louise Lindholdt Hansen, Louise Tram Henriksen
	Aalborg	Steen Rosthøj, Ruta Tuckuviene
<b>Finland</b>	Helsinki	Mervi Taskinen, Kim Vettenranta, Pasi Huttunen, Jukka Kanerva, Kirsi Jahnukainen, Virve Pentikäinen, Minna Koskenvuo, Samppa Ryhänen, Helena Olkinuora, Satu Långström, Pauliina Utriainen, Adam Alexandersson, Anu Suominen, Antti Kyrönlähti
	Turku	Päivi Lähteenmäki, Marika Grönroos, Anu Huurre, Laura Korhonen, Linnea Schuez-Havupalo, Liisa Järvelä
	Oulu	Riitta Niinimäki, Hanna Juntti, Anne Hekkala, Elli-Maija Ukonmaanaho, Henri Aarnivala
	Tampere	Olli Lohi, Mikko Arola, Katriina Parto, Päivi Raittinen, Sauli Palmu, Niina Valtanen, Kristiina Nordfors
	Kuopio	Pekka Riikonen, Kaisa Vepsäläinen, Jouni Pesola, Tuuli Pöyhönen, Stefan Becker
<b>Iceland</b>	Reykjavik	Ólafur G. Jónsson, Halldóra K. Thórarinsdóttir, Sólveig Hafsteinsdóttir, Ragnar Bjarnason, Jón Jóhannes Jónsson
<b>Lithuania</b>	Kaunas	Giedre Rutkauskiene, Rosita Kiudeliene, Egle Ramanauskiene, Sonata Argustaite, Justina Klimaite, Ruta Radaviciute
	Vilnius	Jelena Rascon, Goda Vaitkevičienė, Gražina Kleinotienė, Audronė Mulevičienė, Indrė Tamulienė, Natalija Šestel, Ramunė Pasaulienė, Rolanda Nemanienė, Sigita Stankevičienė, Sonata Šaulytė Trakymienė, Vilma Rutkauskaitė, Ignė Kairienė
<b>Norway</b>	Oslo	Anne Grete Bechensteen, Ellen Ruud, Heidi Glosli, Bernward Zeller, Inga Maria Johannsdottir, Einar Stensvold, Jochen Büchner, Monica Cheng Munthe-Kaas, Aina Ulvmoen, Charlotte Alme, Marta Burman, Kirsten Jarvis, Ida Knapstad, Tale Torjussen, Anja Lee, Christina Elisabeth Bjerring Opheim Associate members: Marit Hellebostad, Finn Wesenberg, Eva Widing

Trondheim	Bendik Lund, Ann Elisabeth Åsberg, Svein Kolmannsskog, Erling Moe, Kristin Solem, Magnus Aassved Hjort
Bergen	Maria W Gunnes, Dorota Malgorzata Wojcik, Anita Andrejeva, Ingrid Kristin Torsvik
Tromsø	Tore Stokland, Trond Flaegstad, Niklas Stabell, Tove Nystad, Simon Kranz, Ole Mikal Wormdal
<b>Sweden</b>	
Stockholm, Solna	Pernilla Grillner, Mats Heyman, Stefan Söderhäll, Niklas Pal, Klas Blomgren, Stefan Holm, Johan Malmros, Per Kogner, Jonas Karlén, Jan-Inge Henter, Ingrid Öra, Petter Svenberg, Karin Strålin, Trausti Óskarsson, Tatiana Greenwood, Susanna Ranta, Tony Frisk, Tomas Bexelius, Christina Egnell, Johan Hamrin, Nina Mogensen, Mari Wilhelmsson, Clary Georgantzi, Karin Henning, Lena-Maria Carlson
Stockholm, Huddinge	Mikael Sundin, Jacek Winiarski, Peter Priftakis, Kim Ramme, Petra Byström, Gauti Rafn Vilbergsson, Susan Farmand
Lund	Anders Castor, Jacek Toporski, Lars Hjorth, Helena Mörse, Kees-Jan Pronk, Dominik Turkiewicz, Ingrid Öra, Ulf Tedgård, Annika Mårtensson, Marie Eliasson Hofvander, Johan Svahn, Patrik Romerius, Joakim Wille, Ladislav Krol, Joana Makari, Nadine Gretenkort Andersson, Anna Sällfors Holmqvist, Charlotte Ragnarsson
Uppsala	Josefine Palle, Britt-Marie Frost, Gustaf Ljungman, Johan Arvidson, Per Frisk, Åke Jakobson, Anders Öberg, Annika Englund, Natalja Jackmann, Britt Gustafsson, Tania Christoforaki, Arja Harila-Saari, Mia Giertz, Gustaf Leijonhufvud, Geraldine Giraud
Gothenburg	Karin Mellgren, Jonas Abrahamsson, Gustaf Österlundh, Marianne Jarfelt, Magnus Sabel, Magnus Göransson, Cecilia Langenskiöld, Lene Karlsson, Elizabeth Schepke, Lars Kawan, Torben Ek, Cecilia Petersen, Diana Ljung-Sass, Lisa Mellström, Aron Onerup, Martin Dalin, Jerker Isaksson, Monika Renkiel-ska, Jonathan Källström
Umeå	Ulrika Norén Nyström, Per-Erik Sandström, Caroline Björklund, Magnus Borssén, Frans Nilsson, Fredrik Bäckström
Linköping	Mikael Behrendtz, Britt-Marie Holmqvist, Per Nyman Hartmut Vogt, Lisa Törnudd, Oskar Lundgren
<b>The Leukemia Registry</b>	Mats Heyman Karolinska Institutet Dept. of Women's and Children's Health Childhood Cancer Research Unit Tomtebodavägen 18 A SE-17177 Stockholm Sweden

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## **Solid and Brain Tumour Working Groups**

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## Solid Tumour Committee

<b>Chair</b>	Jukka Kanerva (SE) 2019-05
<b>Denmark</b>	Jesper Brok 2019 Lisa Hjalgrim 2016 Karin Bækgaard Nissen 2018
<b>Finland</b>	Kirsi Jahnukainen 2016 Hanna Juntti 2016 Jukka Kanerva 2016 Päivi Lähteenmäki 2016 (ST-registry repr.)
<b>Iceland</b>	Halldora Thorarinsdottir 2016 Solveig Hafsteinsdottir 2016 Ólafur G. Jónsson 2016
<b>Lithuania</b>	Giedre Rutkauskiene 2016 Indre Tamuliene 2016 Rolanda Nemaniene 2016
<b>Norway</b>	Bem Zeller 2016 Tove Nystad 2016 Dorota Wojcik 2017
<b>Sweden</b>	Patrik Romerius 2020 Lisa Törnudd 2020 Caroline Björklund 2020
<b>Young NOPHO</b>	Sauli Palmu 2018

### STC goals:

- STC is a forum for clinical and strategic discussions.
- STC is a forum to form ad hoc WGs for upcoming protocols or other burning issues.
- STC works side by side with the NOPHO Solid tumor registry group.
- STC creates consultation networks within NOPHO for discussion of difficult cases
- NOPHO countries do not have to join the same international protocols, but if there is consensus, it is possible with NOPHO representatives. Currently, Jesper Brok is representing NOPHO in the UMBRELLA consortium and Jukka Kanerva in the rEECur protocol.
- At least yearly meetings, generally two per year with one meeting at the annual meeting and another one in parallel to the LCC and BTC meetings.
- It is important to have own studies within the group and studies connected to the registry. The idea of a project to make a common Nordic registration legal and feasible was launched; the NOPHOCARE project. STC will work actively within the NOPHOMatch project.

All Nordic countries have appointed three formal representatives that form the back-bone of the STC, but it has been decided to have an open attitude and invite all those with a special interest in the area to participate and contribute. In addition, it has been decided that it would be valuable to have members from other disciplines such as radiotherapy, pediatric surgery, pathology, genetics, radiology, etc. involved

in the group to mimic the situation in the tumor board as the solid tumor work indeed is multidisciplinary. STC will increase its collaboration with the NOPHO RT WG. STC has a mailing list of approximately 60 individuals for networking.

The chair shall be nominated by the national groups rotating between the NOPHO countries in a fashion similar to that in other groups. The term for the chair is two years. Next chair will be from Denmark confirmed at the annual meeting 2021 in Kuopio.

During the past year the STC has had two meetings, one at the annual meeting in Aalborg in May 2019 and one in Oslo in November 2019.

At the May meeting we had reports from NOPHOMatch (project aiming at matching patients with early phase trials), updates of early phase trials and treatment protocols open/used in NOPHO countries. Several interesting case reports were presented.

At the November meeting we had an update of the NOPHO-CARE project, update of treatment protocols open/used in NOPHO countries. Jakob Stenman presented a study proposal for relapsed or refractory HR neuroblastoma (Lu-DOTATATE; peptide receptor radionuclide); STC supports conducting the study. Presentation of drug screening combined with genetic profiling. Update of CWS and EpSSG activities in soft tissue sarcoma. Updates of Ewing sarcoma and extracranial germ cell tumors.

During the next year, we will have a short meeting during Trondheim annual meeting in May and a longer meeting in the fall in Helsinki combined with the NOPHO Board meeting.

Helsinki 15 March 2020

Jukka Kanerva

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## Brain Tumour Committee

### Brain Tumour Committee

<b>Coordinator</b>	Virve Pentikäinen (FI)
<b>Denmark</b>	René Mathiassen, Helle Broholm (neuropathologist)
<b>Finland</b>	Mikko Arola, Virve Pentikäinen, Anne Hekkala, Mia Westerholm-Ormio (neurologist)
<b>Iceland</b>	Halldora Thorarinsdottir
<b>Norway</b>	Ingrid Kristin Torsvik, Kristin Solem, Petter Brandal (radiotherapist)
<b>Sweden</b>	Stefan Holm, Irene Devenney, Christoffer Ehrstedt, Bengt Gustavsson (neurosurgeon)
<b>Lithuania</b>	Rosita Kiudeliene, Giedre Rutkauskiene
<b>Estonia</b>	Kadri Saks
<b>Latvia</b>	Zhanna Kovalova
<b>Young NOPHO</b>	Kristiina Nordfors (FI), Satu Långström (FI), Michael Callesen (DK), Geraldine Giraud (SE)
<b>NOPHO Solid Tumor Registry</b>	Mats Heyman

#### Change of members:

Mia Westerholm-Ormio (FI, neurologist), Kristin Solem (NO) and Geraldine Giraud (SE, young NOPHO) joined as new members. Tore Stokland (NO), Tuula Lönnqvist (FI) and Christine Dahl (DK) stepped down.

### Brain Tumour Network

NOPHO Brain Tumour Network is a group open to any NOPHO member working with pediatric brain tumors. Brain Tumour Committee meetings are open to Network members. BTC members in each country keep their own list of national Network members and forward relevant messages.

### SIOP-E BT working group members from NOPHO (also national coordinators of SIOP CNS tumor protocols where relevant)

**Medulloblastoma/PNET:** Magnus Sabel (SE), Anne Vestli (NO), Astrid Sehested (DK), Virve Pentikäinen, Mia Westerholm-Ormio (FI)

**Low Grade Glioma:** Astrid Sehested (chair), Kamilla Rothe Nissen (ophthalmologist) (DK), Tore Stokland, Ole Mikal Wormdal (NO), Pernilla Grillner (SE), Päivi Lähteenmäki, Tuire Lähdesmäki (FI)

**High Grade Glioma / DIPG:** Stefan Holm, Klas Blomgren (SE), Karsten Nysom (DK), Ingrid Kristin Torsvik (NO), Virve Pentikäinen (FI)

**Ependymoma:** Ingrid Kristin Torsvik (NO), Helena Morse (SE), Pernille Wendtland Edslev (DK), Satu Långström (FI)

**CNS Germ cell tumors:** Astrid Sehested (DK), Kristin Solem (NO), Irene Devenney (SE), Anne Hekkala (FI)

**Craniopharyngioma:** Bengt Gustavsson (SE) Tore Stokland (NO)

**AT/RT:** Karsten Nysom (DK), Clary Georgantzi (SE), Satu Långström (FI), Anne Grethe Bechensteen (NO)

**Quality of Survival:** Christoffer Ehrstedt (SE)

**Radiotherapy:** Kristina Nilsson (SE), Henriette Magelssen (NO), Yasmin Lassen (DK)

## Meetings

### *Brain tumour committee meetings:*

BTC meeting was held in Aalborg, Denmark, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019 before NOPHO annual meeting. The next BTC meeting is planned to be in Trondheim, Norway May 8<sup>th</sup> 2020 but may be postponed because of Covid-19 virus related restrictions.

#### *Other brain tumour meetings:*

**SIOP-E Brain Tumour Group annual meeting** was held in Budapest, Hungary 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

**PaeNNO 2019** meeting was held in Helsinki, Finland 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

**SIOP-E HGG working group meeting** was held in Utrecht, Netherlands, 20<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

#### *Upcoming brain tumour meetings:*

**SIOP-E Brain Tumour Group** annual meeting 2020 was postponed due to Covid-19 and the time of next SIOP-E BTG meeting will be announced later.

**ISPNO 2020** meeting was also postponed due to Covid-19 and will take place in Karuizawa, Japan, 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

**PaeNNO 2021** meeting will take place in Denmark. Tentative dates 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

### **CNS Tumour molecular classification and related germ line testing**

The WHO 2016 classification of the central nervous system tumours reclassifies the major histological brain tumour diagnoses and uses molecular parameters in addition to histology to define tumour entities. Molecular classification has a major impact on prognosis and treatment of pediatric brain tumours. Accordingly, integrated histological and molecular diagnosis is required in new international brain tumour treatment protocols. This defines a need for molecular diagnostic methods (gene sequencing, DNA methylation array etc) which are often required in rapid timetable within study protocols. These are now well available in NOPHO area. Centralization of certain analyses such as methylation array allows sufficient sample numbers for cost-effective and rapid turnover. An updated list of available molecular diagnostic methods for molecular classification in NOPHO area is found on NOPHO web pages under Brain Tumor Committee area.

Moreover, identification of cancer predisposing alterations in germ line if noticed in the tumor is becoming important and also mandatory in many brain tumor protocols. This means that genetic counselling has to be easily available when these alterations are found. Discussion on this issue is ongoing.

### **Participation in brain tumour protocols**

The SIOP-E brain tumor group works towards international cooperative protocols and registries to improve treatment of pediatric brain tumour patients. The NOPHO Brain tumor group participates in this work through encouraging NOPHO countries to join SIOP-E protocols and through elected NOPHO representatives in disease specific working groups. National protocol coordinators from each participating country are also members of the corresponding SIOP-E working groups.

In the beginning of 2020, three phase II-III protocols are open in NOPHO area: SIOP PNET5 medulloblastoma in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, Ependymoma II in Finland and BIOMEDE in Denmark and Sweden. In addition, several relapse and phase I-II protocols are open and several protocols will be opened in the near future.

#### *Medulloblastoma*

**SIOP PNET5** protocol for low-risk and standard-risk medulloblastoma contains upfront analysis of molecular markers of tumour biology to stratify patients for low risk and standard risk treatment. The main study questions are about 1) lowering the dose of therapy for low-risk patients to decrease the late effects while maintaining the excellent survival rate and 2) randomising concomitant carboplatin during radiotherapy for standard-risk patients to increase the effectiveness of the treatment. New amendment version 12 of the protocol contains more profound molecular subgrouping and germ line (blood control) preinclusion testing for cancer predisposing syndromes in certain molecular subtypes of medulloblastoma. In addition, new patient groups are included (clinically high risk patients with favourable WNT activation, TP53 mutated – SHH activated medulloblastomas with very poor prognosis, and registry for medulloblastoma patients with cancer predisposing alteration other than TP53 mutation).

During version 11 and 12 of the protocol there have been 7 cases of PRES after radiotherapy, during first chemotherapy cycle. These have been documented as SUSAR because their frequent rate. In the upcoming version 13 of the protocol the order of chemotherapy cycles has been changed to avoid repeated doses of vincristine soon after radiotherapy which has been considered as a risk factor for PRES.

PNET5 protocol version 11 has been running in Finland and Sweden for several years and is now open in Norway. Denmark has opened version 12 and submission of new protocol version is planned/ongoing in other participating NOPHO countries. Recruitment has been extended until at least the end of 2021.

**SIOP HR-MB** protocol is for clinical HR medulloblastoma patients over 3 – 5 years with non-WNT biology. The main aim is to test systematically whether any of strategies used for HR medulloblastoma offers a survival advantage and to compare toxicities. It will include randomisation to HART (hyperfractionated accelerated radiation therapy) or standard radiotherapy or high dose chemotherapy and standard radiotherapy. Full protocol version 2.0 (June 2019) has received funding in UK for running the trial and has been accepted by UK authorities. It is expected to be opened in the UK by the end of May 2020 and will be submitted in NOPHO countries after that.

**SIOP YC-MB** protocol for infant/young children (YC) medulloblastoma is in development. The protocol will have biologically stratified treatment groups and will include radiotherapy for patients over 18 months with poorest prognosis. Study design for infant HR-group is ready but there has been a delay in start of the protocol due to questions regarding risk-stratification of patients in infant SHH-medulloblastoma (non-HR) group. Aim is to have randomized trial to better define neurotoxicity of intraventricular MTX and alternative treatment options in this group. Funding has been applied for general structures of the trial for biological (850K methylation array) and neuropsychological assessments for all European patients.

#### *Atypical teratoid rhabdoid tumour (AT/RT)*

**European Rhabdoid Registry (EU-RHAB)** contains a registry and treatment recommendations. We continue to recommend that patients are discussed with Michael Frühwald in Augsburg, who coordinates the registry, and that patients are reported to the registry. European protocol for AT/RT, SIOPE ATRT01 is being developed and has been submitted for funding and to the authorities in Germany. NOPHO Brain Tumor Committee supports the concept of the trial.

#### *Ependymoma*

**SIOP Ependymoma II** protocol is open in several European countries, was opened in Finland in the end of 2019 and will be soon opened in Sweden and Norway, and is in the process of submission in Denmark. This protocol has three different strata (risk categories) with separate randomisations in each strata. It does not contain novel therapies apart from valproic acid as HDAC-inhibitor and does not require tumour biology testing for risk stratification. Biological samples, however, are mandatory and will be sent to BIOMECA core laboratories.

#### *Low Grade Glioma (LGG)*

**SIOP-LOGGIC** trial for LGG patients with non-NF1 LGG gr I-II and indication to treat is close to opening and will be opened in several NOPHO countries. Randomisation is between treatment with standard vincristine-carboplatin or vinblastine monotherapy or trametinib (MEK inhibitor). In addition to PFS as defined by MRI imaging, visual and neurological outcome will be included as primary outcome measures. This will necessitate close cooperation with study ophthalmologists for patients with a visual pathway tumour.

It is an inclusion criteria for LOGGIC Europe trial that the patient is first included in the **LOGGIC Core** Bioclinical database with mandatory 1<sup>st</sup> level molecular investigations (methylation array and basic molecular changes) as well as submission of frozen tumor tissue to 2<sup>nd</sup> level central tumor assessment in Heidelberg. The 1<sup>st</sup> level investigation has to be carried out at a LOGGIC molecular hub. At present Copenhagen (DK) is registered as a molecular hub and can perform testing for other countries (price not determined yet, there is some central funding for the first patients), but this can most likely be expanded to other centres in NOPHO as well. It is therefore necessary to open LOGGIC Core as well as LOGGIC Europe to be able to include patients into the randomised trial. All details are ready to be able to open LOGGIC Core and all countries are encouraged to get started on this to be able to be ready for LOGGIC trial. The LOGGIC trial is not yet ready for submission to the authorities, but it is expected that this will be the case within the next few months, and a VHP is planned.

Until opening of the LOGGIC protocol, recommended standard treatment for LGG is according to SIOP-LGG 2004 protocol, which was closed for randomisation in 2013.

LGG patients with BRAFV600E mutation in their tumor are excluded from LOGGIC and go to their own protocols. **Protocol for BRAFV600E positive LGG** including randomisation between standard vincristine-carboplatin and targeted dabrafenib-trametinib treatment is open in Copenhagen (DK) and Tampere (FI).

**Protocol for neurofibromatosis 1 and low-grade glioma** is also being developed together with the COG as a SIOP-COG cooperation. The trial has just opened in the US for NF-1 LGG patients with an indication for non-surgical therapy, chemotherapy is randomised between VCR-carboplatin (US schedule) and selumetinib, a MEK-inhibitor from AstraZeneca. Like the LOGGIC trial, visual function is an end-point. Birmingham will be European sponsor. Trial will probably not be ready to open in Europe before 2021.

#### *High grade glioma (HGG) and diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG)*

**SIOPE Infant HGG** protocol was agreed but did not get enough funding and is planned to be opened as a registry containing treatment recommendation.

**DIPG registry** developed by the SIOPE DIPG network was published in January 2017 and is ready for use in each participating country after approval of national authorities. It has been submitted in Norway, and is planned in Sweden, Denmark and Finland.

**BIOMEDE** (Biological Medicine for DIPG eradication) is originally a protocol for H3K27M positive pontine gliomas and currently includes H3 K27M-mutant diffuse midline gliomas outside of pons as well. The protocol contains tumor biopsy and preinclusion screening of tumour biology. There was a biology dependent randomization for targeted medication combined with radiation therapy. Randomisation was paused and recruitment continues to single arm study (everolimus combined with radiotherapy) until opening of the BIOMEDE2 trial, which will include a novel drug ONC201. In NOPHO, BIOMEDE is open in Copenhagen (DK) and in Stockholm/Sweden. BIOMEDE2 will also be opened in Helsinki/Finland.

Trial of **dabrafenib + trametinib** for BRAF V600 mutant relapsed or refractory HGG is open in Copenhagen (DK), Stockholm (SE) and Tampere (FI).

There is still no open protocol for other HGG patients after HERBY-protocol in which no benefit from bevacizumab added to radiation therapy and temozolomide was received. Consensus for postoperative treatment of new HGG patient (other than midline H3K27M mutated glioma or infant HGG or rare HGGs with options for targeted treatment) in Europe and NOPHO is still radiation therapy and temozolomide with possible combination of lomustine.

#### *CNS Germ Cell tumours (GCT)*

**SIOP CNS GCT II** protocol for patients with CNS germ cell tumours was open in several countries including Sweden and Norway. The trial was closed in June 2018. The British group's suggestion for treatment of these patients during the interim phase between protocols is to keep chemotherapy unchanged and, regarding radiotherapy, boost pure germ cell tumors also in cases of complete remission until outcome reports from the trial are available and for non-disseminated non-germinomas give whole ventricular radiation and boost to the tumor bed. NOPHO radiation therapy group recommends to do the same.

#### *Early phase protocols*

Regarding possible experimental therapies in NOPHO, the file "NOPHO novel therapy trials overview" can be found on [www.nopho.org](http://www.nopho.org) under "protocols" and is updated by Karsten Nysom continuously.

A phase 1 trial with **afatinib** for relapsed or progressive ERB receptor positive tumors, which was open in Copenhagen (DK), is paused since Dec 23rd 2019.

**MEMMAT** protocol is a phase 2 trial of multidrug antiangiogenic approach for patients with recurrent or progressive medulloblastoma. The trial is open in Copenhagen (DK), Bergen (NO) and in all 6 Swedish centers.

A trial of PD1 inhibitor (**pembrolizumab**) in relapsed/progressive PD1 positive solid tumors including brain tumors is open in Lund (SE).

A phase 2 trial of **larotrectinib** for tumors harboring NTRK fusions is open in Copenhagen (DK).

A phase 1-2 trial of **LOXO-195** for tumors with NTRK fusions and resistance to larotrectinib is open in Copenhagen (DK).

A phase 2 trial of **dabrafenib and trametinib** for BRAF V600 mutant relapsed or refractory high grade glioma as well as BRAF V600 mutant low grade gliomas needing non-surgical therapy (randomized against vincristine + carboplatin) is open in Copenhagen (DK), Stockholm (SE) and Tampere (FI).

A phase 2 trial of **nivolumab** (anti-PD1) and ipilimumab (anti-CTLA4) for tumors with high tumor mutational burden without further standard of care treatment is open in Copenhagen (DK).

### Radiotherapy

Protons are increasingly used for radiation therapy in pediatric patients, especially in case of very young patients and with close proximity of critical organs at risk. The Skandion Clinic in Uppsala opened in June 2015, is running and treating pediatric patients. Proton therapy centre in Aarhus opened in January 2019, first treated adults and teenagers with brain tumors and from August 2019 also treats younger children needing anesthesia. Pediatric patients from Finland have been sent to West German Proton Therapy Centre Essen (WPE), which treats pediatric brain tumor patients from several European countries. In Norway a political decision to build two proton centres has been made. Until that, pediatric patients are sent to WPE or Skandion Clinic.

QUARTET is a prospective SIOPE driven radiotherapy quality assurance program in which radiotherapy dose plans of patients included in SIOPE protocols are previewed on the EORTC data platform by appointed pediatric radiation oncologists to see if they are planned according to the radiotherapy protocol description. QUARTET is already implemented in neuroblastoma LINES protocol, is being implemented in PNET5 version 12, Ependymoma II and HR-MB protocols and planned in the new EPSSG rhabdomyosarcoma protocol.

### NOPHO CNS research projects

**The Nordic study of Cerebellar Mutism Syndrome (CMS) in children with brain tumours of the posterior fossa** is open in Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Lithuania, Netherlands, UK and Hungary. The protocol and forms are on the NOPHO web site under "protocols". Patient accrual is going well.

**Lithium in the treatment of cognitive late effects after cranial radiotherapy** is a study proposed by Klas Blomgren and accepted as a NOPHO study by the NOPHO scientific committee and is planned to run in cooperation with Institut Gustave Roussy in Paris and Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Applications have been submitted.

**DNA methylation classification of newly diagnosed pediatric CNS tumors in NOPHO** study is open and running in Gothenburg (PIs Elizabeth Schepke, Magnus Sabel, Birgitta Lannering). This is a Swedish pilot first.

**NOPHOmatch** is a project for all relapsed / refractory pediatric cancers. Aim is to match children with R/R cancer to phase 1/2 trials through 1) opening of two large trials for targeted therapies in NOPHO area (ESMART and INFORM2) and 2) establishing weekly Nordic video conferences to assure matching of molecular tumor profiles to targeted treatment within trials. The project was selected for funding from NordForsk 2019-2022.

#### Nordic publications on pediatric CNS tumors (2019 – 2020):

**E. Stensvold et al 2019:** *Children treated for medulloblastoma and supratentorial PNET in Norway from 1974 through 2013: Unexplainable regional differences in survival.* *Pediatr Blood Cancer* 66(10):e279110.

#### Use of the NOPHO web in CNS tumour work

We continue to encourage that active SIOPE protocols will be put on the NOPHO web with permission of the protocol PI. Minutes of working group meetings should also be posted if permission is granted by the working group chair. In addition, we will keep updated lists of available molecular diagnostic methods on NOPHO web pages.

Virve Pentikäinen  
Helsinki, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Solid Tumour Registry (NOPHO-Care Task force)

<b>Chair</b>	Päivi Lähtenmäki PI of NOPHO Care
<b>Denmark</b>	Lisa Hjalgrim, 2018
<b>Finland</b>	Päivi Lähtenmäki , 2013
<b>Iceland</b>	Ólafur G. Jónsson
<b>Lithuania</b>	Jelena Rascon, 2020
<b>Norway</b>	Bem Zeller, 2016
<b>Sweden</b>	Cecilia Petersen, 2020 Päivi Lähtenmäki CCEG registry
<b>Young NOPHO</b>	Thorgerdur Gudmundsdottir

The Nordic Childhood Solid Tumor Registry (STR) was started up and maintained since 1982 by the Norwegian Cancer Registry. Annual reports have been included in the NOPHO Report since 1995. The NOPHO Board has earlier decided to transfer the responsibility and future maintenance of the Nordic Solid Tumor Registry from the Norwegian Cancer Registry in Oslo to the Childhood Cancer Research Unit in Stockholm, and a comprehensive analysis of the available Nordic data (1982-2014) was performed for the STR group by our esteemed colleague Göran Gustafsson. The results were published in the Annual Report of 2016.

At that time point, it had become clear that the registration of the patients in practice is only possible to the national quality registries and to specifically defined research project databases (not to be called as registries). Thus, NOPHO wanted to investigate the possibilities to facilitate international collaborations outside NOPHO as well as inside the society. A “Nordic Study Day” was organized on January 28th 2016 in Stockholm by NOPHO GS, NOPHO-registry (CCEG-group) and LLC together with representatives from ethics committees, MPAs, biobank authorities and data regulation expertise from different NOPHO countries in order to try to clarify what is allowed, what is not allowed and how we can overcome obstacles to collaboration in the interest of our patients.

The minutes of the meeting as well as the case-discussions can be found under the Board on the NOPHO-web. Two out of many decision points were:

- In terms related to data protection “language “, NOPHO-registry is the data controller for all Nordic centers. The centers are data processors and there needs to be a formal contract between each processor and the controller.
- NOPHO should design long term registry-based studies. A proposition, “NOPHO-CARE”, is under development.

After creating the project group and finalizing the protocol, NOPHO-CARE study proposal was accepted by the official processes within NOPHO. The NOPHO-CARE study has the overall goal of analyzing factors of importance for the event-free and overall survival as well as describing the cost of disease (acute toxicity leading to death, late-effects, late appearing second malignancies) of children with leukemias, lymphomas and solid tumors, and specific rare non-malignant hematological disorders (e.g.

aplastic anemia, thalassemia major, sickle cell disease, DBA). Specific Aims are:

- To study event-free (EFS) and overall (OS) survival in all children with malignancies and specific non-malignant hematological disorders within NOPHO countries.
- To study the effect on survival of the time lapse between diagnosis (as defined by international standards) and start of anticancer treatment
- To study the effects of background variables (patient age at diagnosis, gender, country of residence, disease presentation (molecular biology of the disease, morphology and sub-site localization of the tumor, stage, risk category, given therapy) on EFS and OS.
- To study in more detail the background variables (described above) for those diagnostic subgroups where EFS and OS in NOPHO countries seem to be below those of the best countries in EURO-CARE reports.
- To analyze the causes of death and their possible changes over the decades when treatments and environmental factors have changed. (Progressive cancer/disease, toxicity of treatment, secondary cancer, other causes of death)
- To produce data on cancer prevalence in NOPHO countries (complete and by disease duration)
- To produce validated data on incidence, survival and prevalence of rare cancers and rare non-malignant hematological disorders in NOPHO countries.
- To produce validated data on the proportion of cancer patients and transplanted patients with non-malignant hematological disorders who are cured of their disease and may be in need for specialized late-effect follow-up services in each country.
- To estimate and analyze the number and proportion of avoidable deaths.
- To create a platform for further studying the biology, optimal treatment and final outcomes of non-malignant hematological diseases in a broad enough population (NOPHO-countries).
- To create a platform for discussion on the introduction of further common NOPHO treatment protocols (primary and relapsed diseases) with a wider European/worldwide collaboration.

NOPHO-CARE has two different settings. A registry based part for leukemias, lymphomas and solid tumors: Patients (both alive and deceased) with leukemia, lymphoma, and solid tumors (CNS and extracranial) diagnosed since 1982 whose data need to be collected from national cancer registries, national and local quality registries, and local cancer registries including NOPHO-leukemia databases for ALL and AML. Data in leukemia databases are also needed in the development of future protocols as control material. The development of the treatment of solid tumors in the Nordic level needs compact data on the present treatment results. The high number of patients and inclusion of deceased cases is a reason for not being able to get informed consents for this retrospective study data. The prospective part of the study: Collecting more detailed data (not available in national or local registries) on treatments, toxicities, relapse treatment, and biological aspects from patients with all childhood /adolescent/young adult malignancies who give consent for the NOPHO-CARE study, including patients with non-malignant hematological disorders (e.g. aplastic anemia (SAA), thalassemia major, sickle cell disease, DBA).

In March 2020 we can report that Sweden, Finland, and Lithuania are ready with their national permissions, and Denmark, Iceland and Norway have got agreement for some parts of the project but some details are pending. CCEG has been studying four different solutions for the building up of the new study database. Funding for that is granted from Barncancerfonden, and the final decision will be made in April 2020. Thus, the NOPHO-CARE Task force looks forward getting the study started during 2020.

On behalf of the group  
Päivi Lähteenmäki

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## Lymphoma Working Group

Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	
<b>Chair</b>	Lisa Hjalgrim DK (2015)
<b>Denmark</b>	Peder Skov Wehner Lisa Lyngsie Hjalgrim
<b>Finland</b>	Päivi Lätteenmäki Pasi Huttunen Päivi Raittinen Kaisa Vepsäläinen
<b>Iceland</b>	Ólafur G. Jónsson Sólveig Hafsteinsdóttir
<b>Norway</b>	Maria Gunnes Monica Cheng Munthe-Kaas
<b>Sweden</b>	Karin Mellgren Susanna Ranta Annika Englund Fredrik Becklund
<b>Young NOPHO</b>	Diana Ljung Sass (SE)
<b>Reference pathologist</b>	Ulrika Hansson (SE)

### Introduction

The NOPHO Lymphoma group is the combination of the previous Hodgkin Lymphoma (HL) (est. 2014) and non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL) (est. 1992) working groups. It was decided to fuse the two fora at the annual NOPHO meeting in Oulu in May 2015. The Lymphoma working group goals are:

- To share patient experiences and discuss difficult patients
- To involve the Nordic countries in international lymphoma protocols and scientific projects
- To have treatment guidelines also for patients with rare lymphomas
- To have an infrastructure for handling, shipment, and analyses of bio-samples from patients with various types of malignant lymphoma
- To have NOPHO representatives in international collaborations
- To update and expand the former NOPHO NHL registry to be a common Nordic Lymphoma registration within the NOPHOCARE project
- To have 2- 3 yearly meetings
- Finally, to have an updated Lymphoma working group NOPHO webpage within the NOPHO webpage

Over the last two decades, the treatment of both HL and NHL in children and adolescents has followed European protocols.

*In 2019 the NOPHO Lymphoma WG had 3 meetings and the main focus of the group has been to open the international lymphoblast lymphoma trial “LBL2018” and to run the common NOPHO and BFM mature B-cell lymphoma trial “B-NHL 2013”.*

### The Lymphoma Registry

The NOPHO NHL-group has been working with on-line registration of patients for a long time and the web-based register has been open for many years, making reporting easier for all clinics. However, change of the NOPHO lymphoma Registry is in process. The registry will include both Hodgkin (HL) and non-Hodgkin (NHL) lymphoma patients. The aim is to have more simple registration for all lymphoma patients, with type of lymphoma, disease characteristics, treatment strategy, and importantly better registration of relapse patients and the relapse treatment strategy. At the moment there is no registration of HL patients in the NOPHO registry (besides Swedish patients) and importantly the registration of NHL patients in registry is dropping. Hopefully, coverage will be improved with new international trials opening and the common “NOPHO Care project”.

### Hodgkin Lymphoma

Since October 2015, the **Euro-Net-PHL-C2 protocol** has opened and all the Nordic countries are now joining, establishing uniform diagnostic risk stratification and treatment of all Nordic HL patients age 0-18 years at diagnosis.

A common feasibility NOPHO study (Teddi) using breath hold technique during delivery of radiation to thorax and upper abdomen is running in Denmark and Finland.

### Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

**Lymphoblast lymphoma:** All Nordic countries opened the **LBL 2018 protocol** during 2019 and are recruiting patients into this trial, which is expected to include patients until summer 2024.

**Mature B-cell lymphomas and leukemia:** The **NOPHO and BFM B-NHL 2013** was approved in all of the Nordic countries in 2017 and all Nordic countries are now open and recruiting patients into this trial, which is expected to include patients until the end of 2023.

Registration of patient data in these protocols are through the Marvin database and NOPHO database. Several NOPHO add on studies are part of these protocols (Quality of life study, immune reconstitution study and CNS flow study). The coordinating NOPHO center is Gothenburg for both the LBL2018 and the BFM2013 trial .

It is expected that a new international protocol for the treatment of **ALCL** will open during 2020

### Overall conclusions

NOPHO takes part in international collaborations for the treatment of HL and NHL. Such cooperations are necessary to identify patients with specific risk-factors within the very heterogeneous group of lymphoma patients. This year work in the lymphoma group has mostly been concentrating on opening the LBL2018 trial and recruiting patient to this trial and the B-NHL 2013 trial. Moreover, improvement in registration of lymphoma patients in the NOPHO CARE project will increase the possibility of better surveillance of lymphoma patients within the Nordic region and make it possible for NOPHO to conduct studies and contribute with data to international studies. For some NHL subtypes there is clearly need of new treatment protocols not least treatment protocols for relapsed patients.

Lisa Lyngsie Hjalgrim  
Chair  
Copenhagen, March 2020

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## Leukaemia Working Groups

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## Leukemia and Lymphoma Committee

<b>Chair</b>	Inga Maria Johannsdottir (NO) 2018
<b>Denmark</b>	Peder Skov Wehner, Bodil Elise Thorhauge Als-Nielsen 2019
<b>Finland</b>	Mervi Taskinen (re-elected 2017), Riitta Niinimäki 2019, Päivi Lähteenmäki 2014
<b>Iceland</b>	Ólafur G. Jónsson, Sólveig Hafsteinsdóttir 2013
<b>Lithuania</b>	Ramune Pasauliene 2016, Igne Kairiene 2019
<b>Norway</b>	Bendik Lund 2016, Monica Munthe-Kaas 2018
<b>Sweden</b>	Jonas Abrahamsson, Karin Mellgren 2016, Arja Harila-Saari 2016
<b>Young NOPHO</b>	Audrone Muleviciene (LT)

### *NOPHO WG-Chairs*

<b>ALL-2008 PI</b>	Kjeld Schmiegelow
<b>ALLTogether</b>	Mats Heyman
<b>ALL Relapse</b>	Petter Svenberg
<b>ALL WG</b>	Mats Heyman
<b>Adult-ALL-group</b>	Nina Toft
<b>LL-Biology</b>	Linda Fogelstrand and Olli Lohi
<b>AML</b>	Josefine Palle and Kees-Jan Pronk
<b>Biobank</b>	Trond Flægstad
<b>Board chair</b>	Birgitte Klug Albertsen
<b>Leukemia genetics</b>	Ulrika Norén-Nyström
<b>Event Group</b>	Arja Harila-Saari
<b>Infant ALL</b>	Birgitte Lausen
<b>Leukemia registration</b>	Mats Heyman
<b>Lymphoma working group</b>	Lisa Lyngsie Hjalgrim
<b>NOPHO MRD group</b>	Hanne Marquart
<b>Ph-ALL/CML</b>	Dominik Turkiewicz
<b>Pharmacology</b>	Goda Vaitkeviciene
<b>SCT</b>	Dominik Turkiewicz

The LLC meets twice a year in connection with the Board meeting. The meetings in 2019 were held in Aarhus (May 3rd) and in Oslo (November 5th). Minutes and presentations from both meetings can be found on the NOPHO website. The main focus at the meetings has been the follow-up of the Nordic leukemia/lymphoma protocols, the proceedings of ALLTogether and new lymphoma protocols, and the reports of leukemia/lymphoma – related working groups.

These groups report their detailed achievements and efforts under their own sections in this annual report.

ALLTogether pilot protocol has been opened in Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Lithuania. The Master protocol is being prepared in most of the participating countries and hopefully will be able to start in Q2 or Q3 this year.

According to NOPHO statutes, leukemia- and lymphoma-related NOPHO studies are always evaluated by the LLC before they go to the Board.

There are an increasing number of non-NOPHO initiated studies connected to the new ALL-Together

(A2G) protocol. LLC has discussed how to organize these studies within NOPHO and decided that these should be treated like other NOPHO studies with approval from WG --> SciCom -> LLC -> Board.

There are two large ALL – late effect studies ongoing and somewhat overlapping, ALLSTAR and HAL-LON. The study groups are discussing a possible cooperation.

LLC chair has represented NOPHO at the yearly I-BFM board meetings and in 2019 this meeting was held in connection with the first one-week European Childhood Cancer (SIOPE) meeting in Prague on 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> of May. Young active people should be introduced to the SIOPE network, and encouraged to attend the working groups and meetings.

Finally, the LLC has been discussing what is the spirit of NOPHO. NOPHO is not a legal entity and does not own its data, particularly not registry data or biobank material. We need structural changes and to build strong Nordic databases. NOPHO has no legal way of enforcing decisions and LLC admitted a suggestion to the board to establish a working group with national representatives that can define NOPHO and its aims and work on making it a legal entity. We have to think Nordic before local and think Nordic before European.

Oslo  
March 2020

Inga Maria Johannsdottir  
LLC-chair

## ALL Working Group

<b>Coordinator</b>	Mats Heyman
<b>Denmark</b>	Birgitte Klug Albertsen Thomas Frandsen
<b>Estonia</b>	Mari Punab
<b>Finland</b>	Kristi Lepik Päivi Lähteenmäki Mervi Taskinen
<b>Iceland</b>	Ólafur Gísli Jónsson
<b>Lithuania</b>	Goda Vaitkeviciene
<b>Norway</b>	Inga Maria Rinvoll Johannsdottir Trond Flaegstad Bendik Lund
<b>Sweden</b>	Jonas Abrahamsson Anders Castor Johan Malmros
<b>Young NOPHO</b>	Adam Alexandersson (FI) Nikolas Herold (SE)
<b>Adult representatives</b>	
<b>Denmark</b>	Nina Toft, Ulrik Overgaard
<b>Estonia</b>	Katrin Palk
<b>Finland</b>	Ulla Wartiovaara-Kautto
<b>Norway</b>	Petter Quist Paulsen
<b>Sweden</b>	Helene Hallböök
<b>Lithuania</b>	Laimonas Griskevicius
<i>Chair of the</i>	
<b>Leukemia and Lymphoma committee</b>	Inga Maria Rinvoll Johannsdottir
<b>ALL 2008 protocol committee</b>	Kjeld Schmiegelow
<b>Event group</b>	Arja Harila-Saari
<b>Infant ALL</b>	Birgitte Lausen
<b>ALL relapse</b>	Petter Svenberg
<b>Ph+ ALL/CML</b>	Anders Castor
<b>MRD group</b>	Hanne Marquart
<b>Cytogenetic group</b>	Ulrika Noren Nyström, Bertil Johansson
<b>Pharmacology group</b>	Goda Vaitkeviciene
<b>LL-Biology</b>	Olli Lohi, Linda Fogelstrand
<i>A representative from</i>	
<b>NOPHO registry</b>	Mats Heyman
<b>Secretary general</b>	Birgitte Klug Albertsen

The ALL group meets twice yearly, the day after the Leukaemia & Lymphoma Biology group meetings. The meetings during the year from the last report have been held at Arlanda airport (25<sup>th</sup> of September 2019 and 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2020) and have been amalgamated with the NOPHO ALLTogether working group meetings.

The main task of the working-group is to coordinate ALL-directed activities within NOPHO and to prepare issues for decision by the LLC and the NOPHO board.

## The present ALL protocol (NOPHO ALL-2008)

ALL WG has cooperated with the NOPHO ALL 2008 PI-group in the follow-up of the ALL2008 protocol.

The study protocol has recruited 2648 patients from 1.7.2008 to 31.12.2019. Out of those 2211 were children 1-17.99 years from the Nordic and Baltic countries, 437 adults (age 18-45) from the Nordic and Baltic countries. We no longer separate the Baltic patients from the rest of NOPHO in the evaluations, but Lithuania and Estonia did not take part in the randomizations in the NOPHO ALL-2008 protocol. The randomized parts of the protocol have now been closed since 1.3.2016, but the protocol is used as standard of care (SOC) until the introduction of the ALLTogether protocol.

EFS at five years is stable as expected: children: 0.86 (SE 0.01), adults: 0.67 (SE 0.03).

pOS at five years: overall: children: 0.93 (SE 0.01), adults: 0.74 (0.03).

The NOPHO ALL-2008 patients have been considered as three defined cohorts:

**Cohort 1:** Diagnosis 1.7.2008-31.12.2014 (overall publication of outcome comparing children <18 years with young adults 18-45 years). Publication: Toft et al. Results of NOPHO ALL2008 Treatment for Patients Aged 1-45 Years With Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. *Leukemia*. 2018 Mar;32(3):606-615.

**Cohort 2:** Diagnosis 1.7.2008-1.3.2016 (“randomization cohort” - with randomized parts starting recruitment from 1.1.2009 in Denmark and Sweden, 11.2.2009 in Norway, 1.6.2009 in Finland and 7.1.2010 in Iceland). Most publications from the NOPHO ALL-2008 will have this cohort as recruitment base.

**Cohort 3:** Diagnosis 1.7.2008- ongoing (“continuation” population-based cohort until the start of ALL-Together Pilot/Main study).

The final composition of cohort 1 and 2 is in principle fixed, but further scrutiny may still change details in the registration. Among other things, the scrutiny of the genetic findings in order to publish the NOPHO ALL-2008 results have changed the genetic label of some patients.

The randomized parts (R1: treatment with or without 6MP increments during consolidation for SR and IR-patients) has now been published: Tulstrup et al, Individualized 6-mercaptopurine Increments in Consolidation Treatment of Childhood Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia: A NOPHO Randomized Controlled Trial, *Eur J Haematol*. 2018 Jan;100(1):53-60.

R2: 2-weekly (total 15 doses) vs 6-weekly (total 8 doses) PEG-Asp during post-consolidation therapy for SR and IR-patients) has been published in *Journal of Clinical Oncology*: Klug Albertsen et al, *JCO*. 2019; 37(19):1638-1646.

The third randomization exploring the addition of Depocyte to high-risk patients in Maintenance has also been published: Levinsen et al. *J Pediatr Hematol Oncol*. 2016 Nov;38(8):602-609.

A large number of additional papers have been published or are planned based on the protocol – most of those will be based on Cohort 2, but some add-on studies may extend into Cohort 3, which is one of the reasons why the protocol stratification and treatment intentions should be kept.

## The MRD group and database

The focus is on preparations for the ALLTogether protocol – both the Pilot- and the Main study. Hanne Marquart has an important role in this group as NOPHO-representative and advocate for flow-cytometry MRD. NOPHO’s MRD-database is in the process of being updated with options to include the timepoints relevant for ALLTogether. Eventually, these data will be imported into the ALLTogether study database by automated transfer. For the Pilot Study and the early part of the Main Study, the essential stratifying MRD-data will still have to be entered manually.

## The Cytogenetic group and database

The Cytogenetic group performs annual central review of the genetic aberrations in the ALL-cohort (both adults and children) in all Nordic countries. This review has the last years been extended to the Baltic countries thanks to the work by Ulrika Norén Nyström and Bertil Johansson.

The database, which has been managed for many years by Erik Forestier is now prospectively stored in the MySQL database together with the rest of the NOPHO ALL-data in Stockholm. For this purpose, a web-based access has been developed, so that genetic labs can enter data directly into the database and the central review of genetic data is now also performed on-line from the review-meetings. The legacy data from the cytogenetic group is planned to be added to this system, but for practical reasons and time-constraints, this work is still pending for many patients.

The NOPHO-registration system has been fully updated to accommodate the new registration parameters necessary for ALLTogether participation. Eventually these data will be (in analogy with the MRD-data), imported into the ALLTogether Castor database. However, like for the MRD-data, this link is still not operational.

## Therapeutic drug monitoring of Asparaginase-activity and Asparaginase-related studies

NOPHO has a great tradition of Asparaginase-related research, mainly based in Aarhus and conducted by Birgitte Klug Albertsen. With the advent of the ALLTogether protocol, there will be monitoring of Asparaginase-activity to identify silent inactivators and distinguish “genuine” allergic reactions (with inactivation of Asp-activity) from “allergy-like” reactions (with retained Asp-activity). Some additional time-points will be added to 1) identify inactivation to the first dose of PEG-Asp and 2) relate peak-level Asparaginase-activity to toxicity and anti-leukaemic activity.

These measurements will be carried out for all of NOPHO in Aarhus and will be recorded in a separate RedCap database – eventually feeding into Castor as the NOPHO MRD- and Cytogenetic applications. Analyses will be systematic in ALLTogether, but the analyses are also performed on patients from other protocols (for instance NOPHO ALL-2008) with reactions. Some of these patients may also qualify for inclusion in the GRASPA-study with red-cell encapsulated E.coli Asparaginase.

Other Asp-related studies include correlation of Asp-activity to toxicity and the exploration of the role of Asp-truncation (due to toxicity) for prognosis in the NOPHO ALL-2008 cohort.

## Preservation of old (and new) NOPHO-data and NOPHO-Care

NOPHO has developed leukaemia-treatment for children since the early 1980s and this development is in fact an important reason for the existence of NOPHO as an organisation. This has accumulated a series of leukaemia-protocol cohorts with detailed registration of clinical characteristics, treatment and outcome data – usually referred to as the NOPHO-registry. The legal status of this database has been difficult to establish and with the advent of ever stricter measures to control registration of personalised data, an urgent need for preservation of these data – preferably together with solid tumour data has been a NOPHO priority. This has resulted in a new long-term research project, NOPHO-Care with the aim to conduct long-term follow-up of NOPHO children with childhood cancer. The leukaemia-registries for ALL and AML will constitute an important part of NOPHO-Care. The infrastructure for this long-term storage is being set up with the Childhood Cancer Research Unit in Stockholm under Päivi Lähteenmäki and with a commitment to collect study-data from studies both retrospectively and prospectively.

## International Collaborations

Internationally, the NOPHO ALL working group has been represented in the I-BFM collaborative ALL working group (various), the Interfant 2006- (Birgitte Lausen), EsPhALL (Anders Castor) and IntRe-ALL relapse- (Petter Svenberg, Päivi Lähteenmäki, Thomas Frandsen, Inga Maria Johansdottir) study groups as well as the Ponte-di-Legno (PdL) group (Kjeld Schmiegelow, Mervi Taskinen and Mats Heyman).

**Interfant 2006:** Patient inclusion has stopped. Several pilot-studies are ongoing, no new protocol proposal yet. The Swedish adaptation of the NOPHO ALL-2008 protocol is used for Swedish infants.

**EsPhALL:** The new EsPhALL-protocol (in collaboration with COG) with Imatinib for all patients and a randomisation between EsPhALL-therapy and the COG High-risk backbone is on its way to be implemented.

**IntReALL:** Denmark, Finland and Norway are recruiting patients into the SR-arm of IntReALL. Sweden has not started recruiting and this study is likely to stop recruiting in 2020 or 2021. The HR-study is presently evaluated for a possible amendment, since very good results have been obtained by COG using Blinatumomab for consolidation of HR-patients before allo-HSCT. No consensus exists at the moment with regard to the HR-arm.

**PdL:** Several projects are underway with collection of data from rare sub-sets of patients.

**PdL-toxicity group:** An additional important contribution is the initiative from Kjeld Schmiegelow to the PdL-group to coordinate toxicity-registration internationally. After an initial consensus paper describing definitions of 14 toxicities (Schmiegelow et al. Lancet Oncol. 2016 Jun;17(6):e231-e239) several projects have been carried out (pancreatitis, several projects are underway: thrombosis, osteonecrosis, neurotoxicity, Asp-related hypersensitivity, Mtx-nefrotoxicity and delayed excretion. The group has also decided to try to define uniform ways to report protocol data and unacceptable long-term toxicities (“Quality Survival”).

### The next ALL-protocol - ALLTogether

The international collaboration, which started in 2013 to form a consortium (“ALLTogether”) for a common ALL protocol has continued. The study was approved in 12 countries (apart from the NOPHO-group including Estonia: Germany, Belgium, the UK, Portugal and Ireland) in October 2019 through a “voluntary harmonised procedure” (VHP) and the Netherlands has approved the protocol separately shortly thereafter. The consortium now consists of 8 study-groups NOPHO, UKALL, DCOG, COALL, BSPHO, SHOP, PHOAI and SFCE. Recently Spain and Cyprus has joined as observers, with the intention to use the master protocol without the experimental interventions (analogous to the NOPHO-pilot described below).

Mainly logistic hurdles (necessary contracts between sponsor and the participating countries, approvals from ethical review boards and in some countries biobank and data-protection authorities), but also the lack of some essential documents and necessary changes to the registration system have held up the start of the main study, but it is now scheduled for start in the first countries in early June 2020.

The first complete draft of the protocol has been in use as a pilot-study, partly to gain experience from the stratification and therapy and partly to test the logistics of the new diagnostics in genetics and MRD. The pilot was implemented first in Denmark (autumn 2018), Lithuania (January 2019), Sweden, Norway and Iceland (autumn 2019). Estonia will join the pilot shortly and will join the main study in 2021. Finland is planning to join the main study directly.

ALLTogether is also meant to be a platform for further ALL research. There has been a call for add-on studies and >30 such studies have been suggested. Several of these studies have been suggested by NOPHO researchers and NOPHO has taken the stance that NOPHO-participation in such studies should be approved by the NOPHO scientific committee. Such approved studies include:

- a study continuing the evaluation of leukaemic contamination of the CSF
- the analysis of the impact of asparaginase-activity (a spin-off of therapeutic drug-monitoring)
- maintenance monitoring (sprung from the NOPHO maintenance study)
- a study on the efficacy of Imatinib (in vitro and in vivo) for patients with ABL-class fusions in the leukaemic cells
- BRAIN – a study on cognitive long-term effects of ALL-treatment

Mats Heyman, Kjeld Schmiegelow and Mervi Taskinen are the NOPHO representatives for paediatric patients, Helene Hallböök, Nina Toft and Ulla Wartiovaara-Kautto represent NOPHO adult haematologists in the ALLTogether steering committee. Mats Heyman is the chief investigator (CI).

National PI:s are: Johan Malmros (paed S), Helene Hallböök (adult S), Bodil Als-Nielsen (paed DK), Ulrik Malthe Overgaard (adult DK), Inga Maria Rinvoll Johannsdottir (paed N), Hilde Skuterud Wik (adult N), Mervi Taskinen (paed FIN), Ulla Wartiovaara-Kautto (adult FIN), Goda Vaitkeviciene (paed LT), Laimonas Griskevicius (adult LT), Kristi Lepik (paed EE), Mari Punab (adult EE).

### The NOPHO biobank

The biobank is going through an overhaul with improved logistics and capability for storage of not only cells, but also primary derivatives such as DNA and RNA – and in ALLTogether also CSF. The biobank receives structural support from the Swedish Childhood Cancer Fund securing its existence and development.

### The ALL-WG as an ALL forum

Several working- and ad hoc groups - the LL-biology group, the pharmacology group and the event-group have presented their projects to the ALL-group for feedback and discussion.

The ALL WG has also served as discussion-forum for NOPHO-studies pertaining to ALL-issues giving approvals and recommendations for amendments and further handling by the LLC.

Stockholm, Springtime, 2020  
Mats Heyman

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## Leukemia - ALL Registration Working Group

<b>Coordinator</b>	Mats Heyman
<b>Denmark</b>	Birgitte Klug Albertsen
<b>Finland</b>	Kim Vettenranta
<b>Iceland</b>	Ólafur Gísli Jónsson
<b>Norway</b>	Inga María Jóhannsdóttir
<b>Sweden</b>	Jonas Abrahamsson, Mats Heyman

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Mats Heyman  
Trausti Óskarsson  
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Nima Behnam Makoi  
Mats Nordström  
Matteo Bottai  
Ida Hed Myrberg  
Adrian Levitsky (Head Data Manager, ALLTogether Pilot Study)

### **Data checks Copenhagen (NOPHO ALL-08)**

Kjeld Schmiegelow (PI, NOPHO ALL-08)  
Thomas Frandsen  
Louise Rold Helt  
Kirsten Kørup Rasmussen  
Nina Toft

## Introduction

We are now clearly in a transition-phase: The NOPHO ALL-2008 trial was closed for recruitment into the randomised sub-studies 1.3.2016, but has continued as standard of care and recruited patients until the end of 2019 (the end of this survey) in Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland and Estonia. In Denmark, patients have been included in the ALLTogether Pilot Protocol since late 2018 and recruitment in Lithuania started in 2019. Unfortunately, registration of those patients is lagging behind for legal and logistic reasons. This survey contains the registered patients at the time of extraction of the databases. Registration is important for all patients, but obviously more urgent for the new protocol patients, who experience therapy that is new to the treating centres. The survey is limited in scope and volume this time, mostly because of the situation with shifting priorities and lack of effective registration in the new protocol.

One of the purposes of the Pilot Study was the practice of the new diagnostics, stratification, therapy, but also registration. Even if data is somewhat sparse, important feedback for re-design of the registration system has contributed to big improvements.

Figure 1. NOPHO ALL-2008 trial enrollment and exclusions.

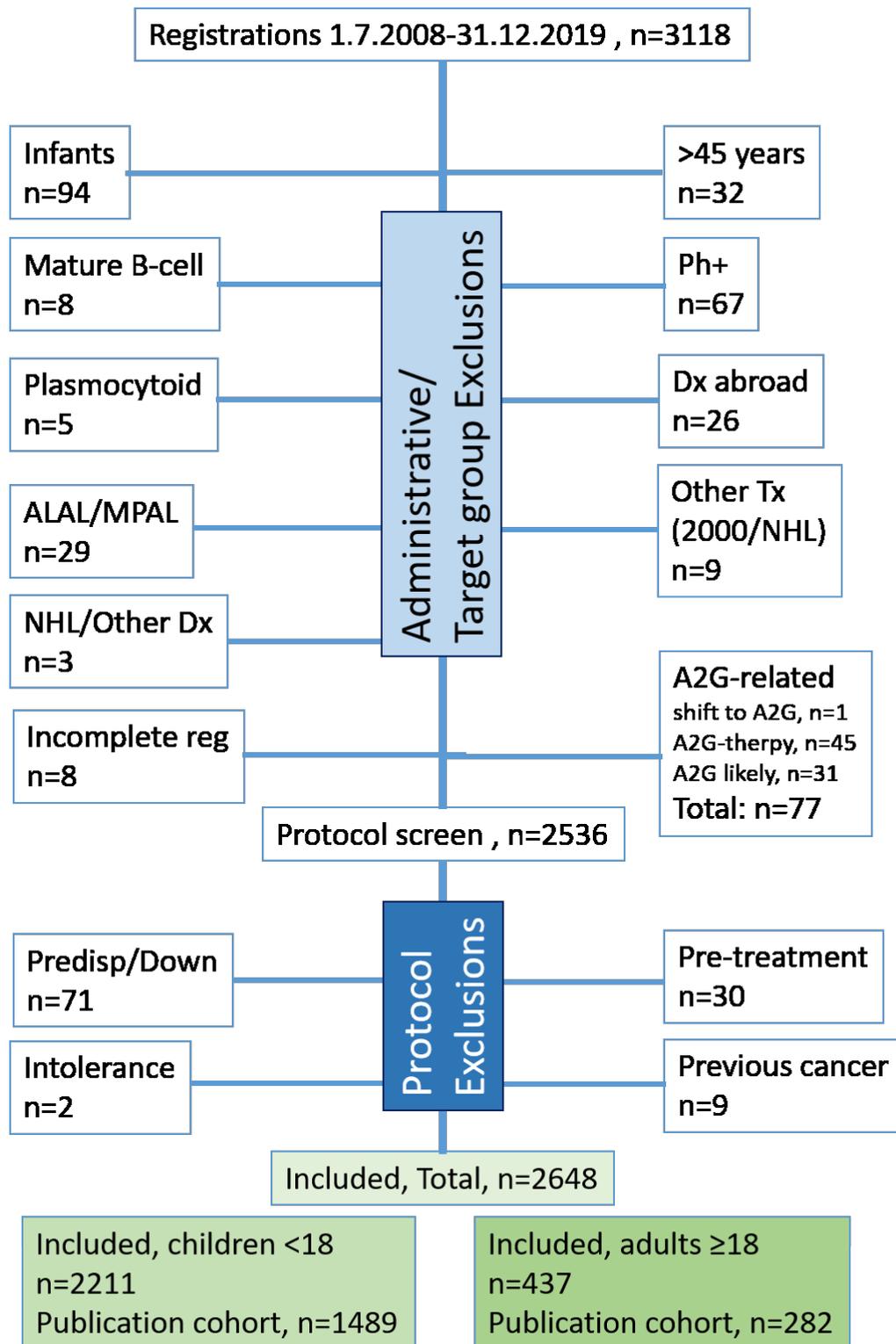


Table 1. Events and outcome NOPHO ALL-2008 – all patients.

Event	Age 1-15 n=2115		Age 16-24 n=291	Age 25-45 n=242	Total n=2648
Non-responders	0		0	0	0
Death in induction	16 (0.8)		2 (0.7)	3 (1.2)	21 (0.8)
CR-reached	2099		289	283	2627
Remission %	99.4		99.3	98.8	99.2
CR1, no RG d29*	4		0	0	4
Final risk stratification	SR n=1188 (n=1072)**	IR n=930 (n=716)**	HR-chemo n=317 (n=208)**	HR-HSCT n=188 (99)**	CR1 n=2623 (2095)**
Death in CR1	11 (9)	23 (15)	29 (20)	15 (8)	78 (52)
Relapses	64 (49)	99 (61)	65 (40)	37 (14)	265 (164)
iBM	28 (19)	51 (29)	46 (9)	28 (12)	153 (89)
iCNS	15 (15)	21 (15)	7 (5)	0 (0)	43 (35)
Testis	2 (0)	1 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	4 (1)
BM+CNS	9 (6)	16 (13)	6 (4)	2 (1)	33 (24)
BM+testis	4 (4)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (5)
BM+CNS+testis	2 (2)	1 (1)	1 (1)	0 (0)	4 (4)
BM+Other site	2 (1)	3 (2)	0 (0)	3 (1)	8 (4)
Other site	0 (0)	4 (0)	4 (1)	3 (0)	11 (1)
Not registered	2 (2)	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	4 (2)
SR relapse (IntReALL)	49 (39)	57 (38)	4 (2)	1 (1)	111 (80)
HR relapse (IntReALL)	15 (10)	40 (23)	57 (38)	13 (4)	125 (78)
Relapse after SCT	0 (0)	2 (0)	4 (1)	23 (9)	29 (10)
SMN	11 (10)	2 (2)	3 (1)	0 (0)	16 (13)
MDS	4 (3)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	5 (4)
AML	3 (3)	1 (1)	1 (1)	0 (0)	5 (5)
Other	3 (3)	1 (1)	1 (0)	0 (0)	5 (4)
All events	86 (68)	124 (78)	97 (62)	52 (22)	383 (249)
CCR number	1102 (1004)	806 (638)	220 (146)	136 (77)	2265 (1866)
CCR %	92.8 (93.7)	88.3 (89.1)	69.4 (70.2)	72.3 (77.8)	85.5 (88.2)
pDFS (60 mo) all	0.91 (0.01)	0.84 (0.01)	0.65 (0.03)	0.67 (0.04)	0.84 (0.01)
pDFS (60 mo) <16	0.92 (0.01)	0.87 (0.02)	0.66 (0.04)	0.74 (0.05)	0.87 (0.01)
pDFS (60 mo) ≥16	0.78 (0.05)	0.75 (0.04)	0.63 (0.05)	0.57 (0.06)	0.70 (0.02)
pEFS (60 mo) all	-	-	-	-	0.83 (0.01)
pEFS (60 mo) <16	-	-	-	-	0.86 (0.01)
pEFS (60 mo) ≥16	-	-	-	-	0.70 (0.02)
All dead	33 (22)	63 (31)	78 (49)	42 (99)	239 (136)
All alive	1155 (1050)	867 (685)	239 (159)	146 (83)	2409 (1979)
alive %	97.2 (97.9)	93.2 (95.7)	75.4 (76.4)	77.7 (83.8)	91.0 (93.6)
pOS (60 Mo) all	0.97 (0.01)	0.92 (0.01)	0.71 (0.03)	0.74 (0.04)	0.90 (0.01)
pOS (60 mo) <16	0.98 (0.01)	0.95 (0.01)	0.72 (0.03)	0.82 (0.04)	0.93 (0.01)
pOS (60 mo) ≥16	0.86 (0.04)	0.82 (0.03)	0.69 (0.05)	0.64 (0.06)	0.76 (0.02)

\*Four patients had very severe infectious complications during induction and could not be assigned a risk-group. They are included in the total number of patients reaching CR1. Three of these patients have relapsed. \*\* Figures in parenthesis are patients 1-15 at diagnosis for counts and standard error for estimates. The count in "All Events", "CCR number", "All dead", "All Alive" and "alive %" also include the induction deaths as well as the outliers described above.

**Table 2. Primary events (NOPHO-2008 cohort) since the previous report.**

Event	SR (<16)	IR (<16)	HR-chemo (<16)	HR-SCT (<16)	Total (<16)
<b>Relapse</b>	14 (11)	18 (13)	9 (4)	5 (4)	46 (32)
<b>DCR1</b>	1 (1)	0 (0)	2 (2)	2 (1)	5 (4)
<b>SMN</b>	1 (1)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (2)
<b>Total</b>	16 (13)	19 (14)	11 (6)	7 (5)	53 (38)

Numbers in parenthesis refers to patients <16 years at diagnosis.

The annual tally of primary events has increased somewhat compared with the report 2019 (54 vs 43 events). This is not primarily due to late reporting, Only 4 of these events occurred in 2018 and were missed in last years' reporting. As the protocol progresses, one would expect a larger fraction of later relapses, particularly in the lower risk-groups. However, the risk-group distribution is more or less as expected from the initial stratification. A little more than half of the relapses (25/46) were defined as "early" (<36 months from diagnosis and this was, as expected, more common in the higher risk-groups.

One additional relapse occurred in a patient without risk-group and adapted therapy and is thus not included in table 2.

#### *Quality of follow-up - Follow-up of living patients*

Median follow-up for all patients (extraction 6<sup>th</sup> of May):

All patients 1609 days – 4.4 years (19-4290).

For patients <16 years 1783 days – 4.9 years (19-4290).

For patients ≥16 years 1526 days - 4.2 years (27-3952).

These medians seem low for a protocol that started 2008 and prompted an analysis of what fraction of patients have adequate follow-up recorded.

**Table 3. Quality of follow-up for living patients diagnosed <2019 and not lost to follow-up before the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2019.**

	<16 years (%)	≥16years (%)	Total (%)
<b>FU &lt;1019</b>	635 (35.1)	98 (26.6)	733 (33.6)
<b>FU Q1 2019</b>	9 (0.5)	29 (7.9)	38 (1.7)
<b>FU Q2 2019</b>	69 (3.8)	14 (3.8)	83 (3.8)
<b>FU Q3 2019</b>	190 (10.5)	44 (11.9)	234 (10.7)
<b>FU Q4 2019</b>	381 (21.0)	20 (5.4)	401 (18.4)
<b>FU 2020</b>	526 (29.1)	164 (44.4)	690 (31.7)
<b>Total</b>	1810 (100)	369 (100)	2179 (100)

**Table 4. Quality of follow-up for living patients diagnosed <2019 and not lost to follow-up before the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2019. Publication cohort only**

	<b>&lt;16 years (%)</b>	<b>≥16years (%)</b>	<b>Total (%)</b>
<b>FU &lt;1019</b>	524 (41.6)	77 (32.4)	601 (40.1)
<b>FU Q1 2019</b>	6 (0.5)	18 (7.6)	24 (1.6)
<b>FU Q2 2019</b>	51 (4.0)	11 (4.6)	62 (4.1)
<b>FU Q3 2019</b>	131 (10.4)	22 (9.2)	153 (10.2)
<b>FU Q4 2019</b>	235 (18.6)	6 (2.5)	241 (16.1)
<b>FU 2020</b>	314 (24.9)	104 (43.7)	418 (27.9)
<b>Total</b>	1261 (100)	238 (100)	1499 (100)

More than a third of our patients have follow-up that is older than one year. The publication-cohort has even less diligent follow-up. This may reflect the relative focus on more recent patients, but will affect our ability to conduct studies on the NOPHO ALL-2008 material. There does not seem to be any major difference in quality of follow-up between paediatric and adult centres.

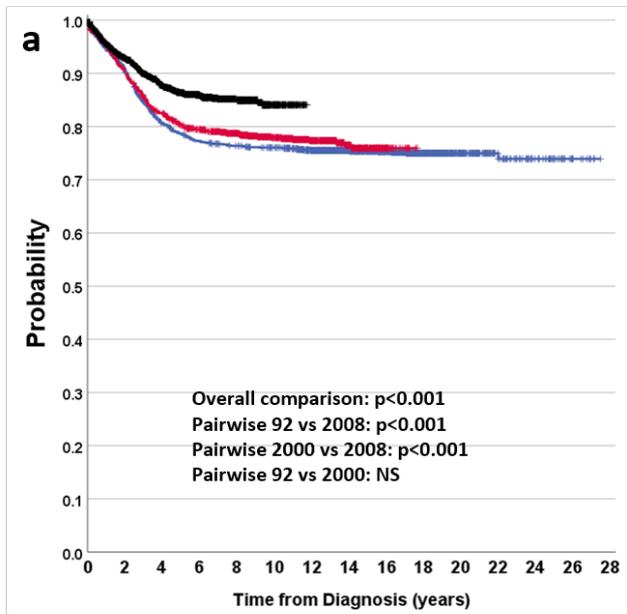
**Table 5. Quality of follow-up for patients with a registered relapse, who are registered as alive at the time of follow-up. Relapses later than 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2019 excluded.**

	<b>&lt;16 years (%)</b>	<b>≥16years (%)</b>	<b>Total (%)</b>
<b>FU Rel = 0 days</b>	8 (9.4)	5 (19.9)	13 (11.5)
<b>FU Rel 0-6 mo</b>	5 (5.9)	5 (19.9)	10 (8.8)
<b>FU Rel 6-12 mo</b>	10 (11.8)	5 (19.9)	15 (13.3)
<b>FU Rel &gt;1 year</b>	62 (72.9)	13 (46.4)	75 (66.4)
<b>Total</b>	85 (100)	28 (100)	113 (100)

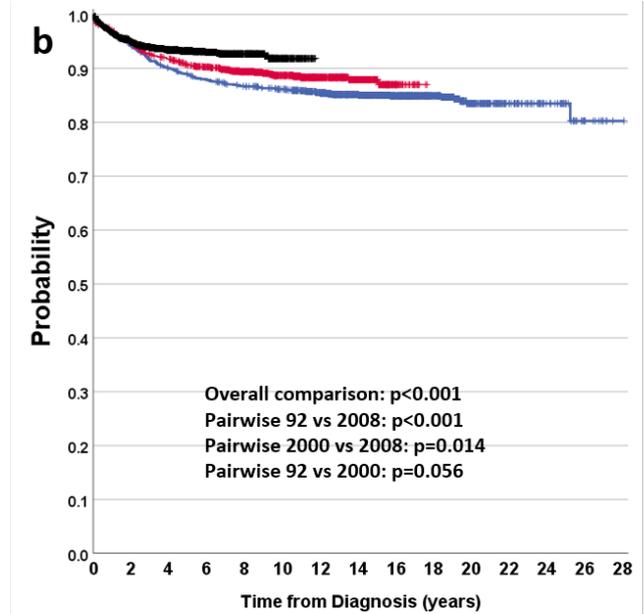
Follow-up for relapsed patients is clearly insufficient. Particularly the patients that are not followed up at all after relapse (FU after relapse = 0 days) is problematic. This shortcoming affects the credibility of our OS-figures in particular.

Treatment-results – Survival analyses

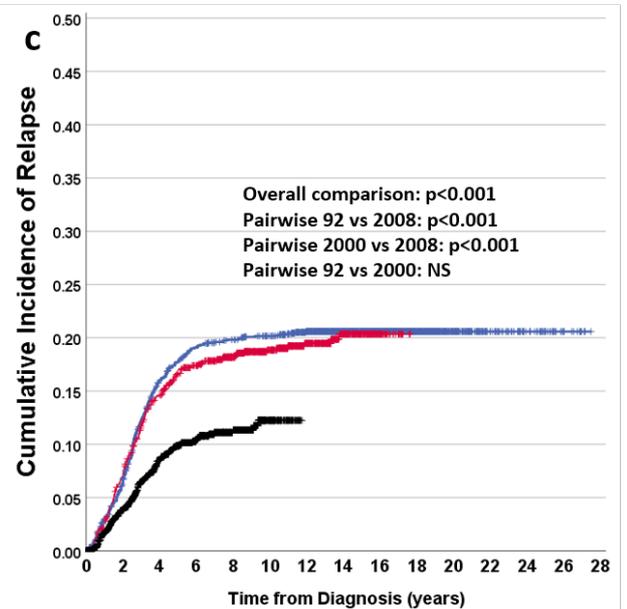
Figure 2. NOPHO ALL-92, NOPHO ALL-2000, NOPHO ALL-2008, Non-B cell ALL 1-<15 years at diagnosis. (a) EFS, (b) OS, (c) cum inc of relapse, and (d) DCR1.



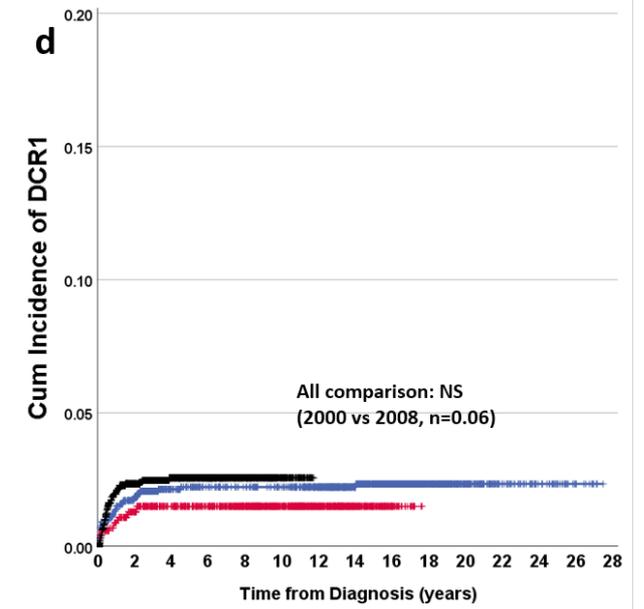
Cohort	Total n	Events	no Event	pEFS (5yr)	pEFS (at FU)
92	1559	384	1175	0.79	0.74
2000	1055	232	823	0.80	0.76
2008	2063	237	1826	0.86	0.84



Cohort	Total n	Deaths	Alive	pOS (5yr)	pOS (at FU)
92	1559	236	1323	0.89	0.80
2000	1055	119	936	0.91	0.87
2008	2063	126	1937	0.93	0.92



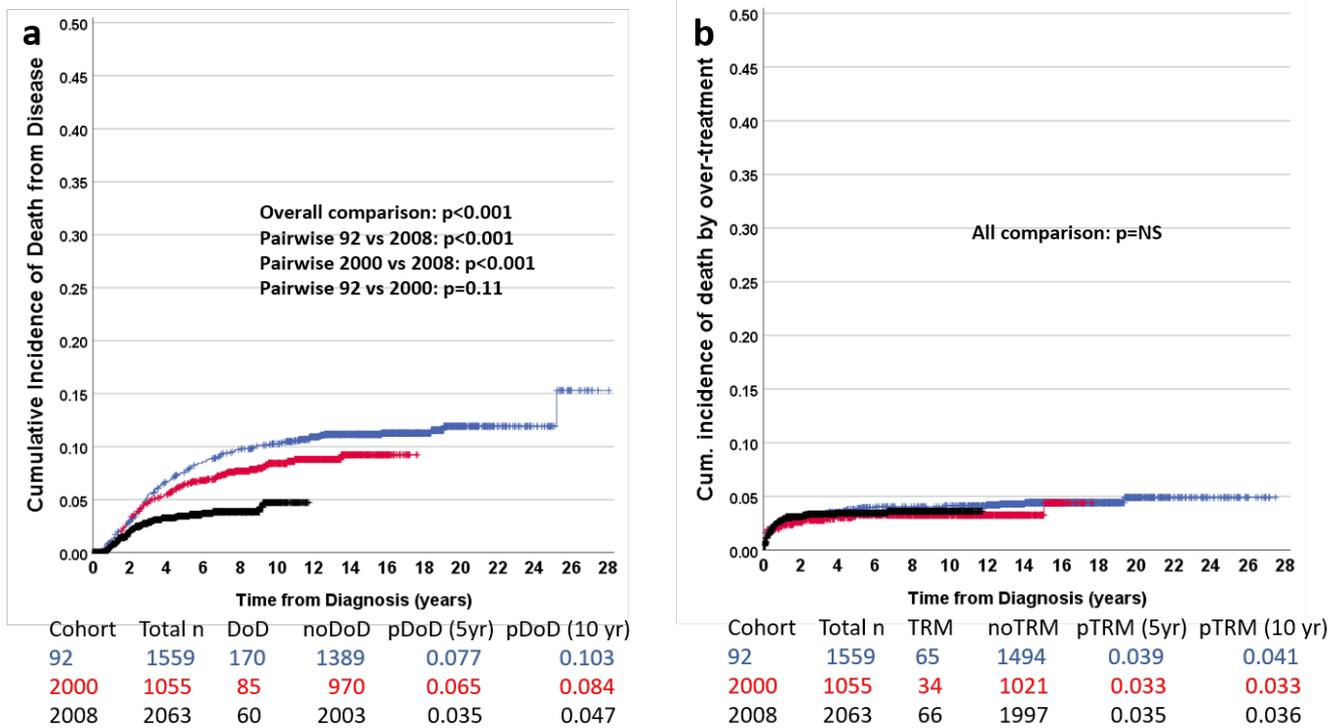
Cohort	Total n	Relapses	no Rel	pRel (5yr)	pRel (at FU)
92	1559	309	1250	0.18	0.21
2000	1055	192	863	0.17	0.20
2008	2063	161	1902	0.10	0.12



Cohort	Total n	DCR1	no DCR1	pDCR1 (5yr)	pDCR1 (at FU)
92	1559	34	1525	0.022	0.023
2000	1055	15	1040	0.015	0.015
2008	2063	47	2016	0.026	0.026

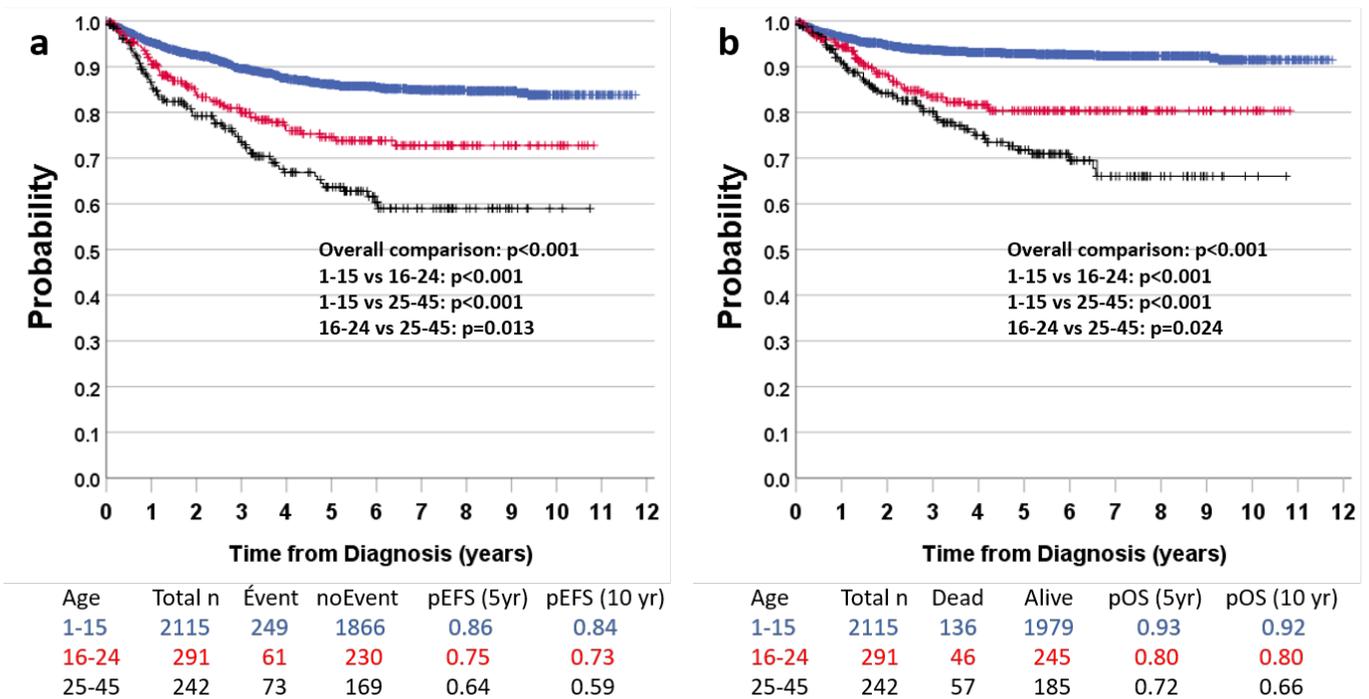
The overall results are stable as expected. A few late relapses cause disproportionate dents in the graphs, which will be corrected with longer follow-up – if this is completed.

**Figure 3. NOPHO ALL-92, NOPHO ALL-2000, NOPHO ALL-2008, Non-B cell ALL 1-<15 years at diagnosis. a) Under-treatment – death after relapse b) Death from over-treatment (induction-death, death in CR1 and after SMN) by Cohort.**



In the under-treatment analysis, the “over-treatment events” (induction death, DCR1 and SMN) are censored observations and, conversely, in the over-treatment analysis, patients are censored at the time of relapse, when they are no longer at risk of dying from over-treatment. It is not formally compensated for the competing events, but the estimates correspond well with overall survival. It illustrates how we have improved in the fight against relapse, but that the price in terms of treatment-related mortality remains constant. The nearly equalised risk indicates that the therapeutic window for an increase in treatment intensity is closing. The way forward is not obvious, but the very similar overall survival results from international groups with different overall treatment-intensities indicate that you can reach at least as far with less intensive therapy. This is an important foundation for the thinking around the ALLTogether protocol.

Figure 4. ALL-2008, Non-B cell ALL 1-<45 years at diagnosis. a) EFS b) OS by age-groups in the ALLTogether1 protocol.

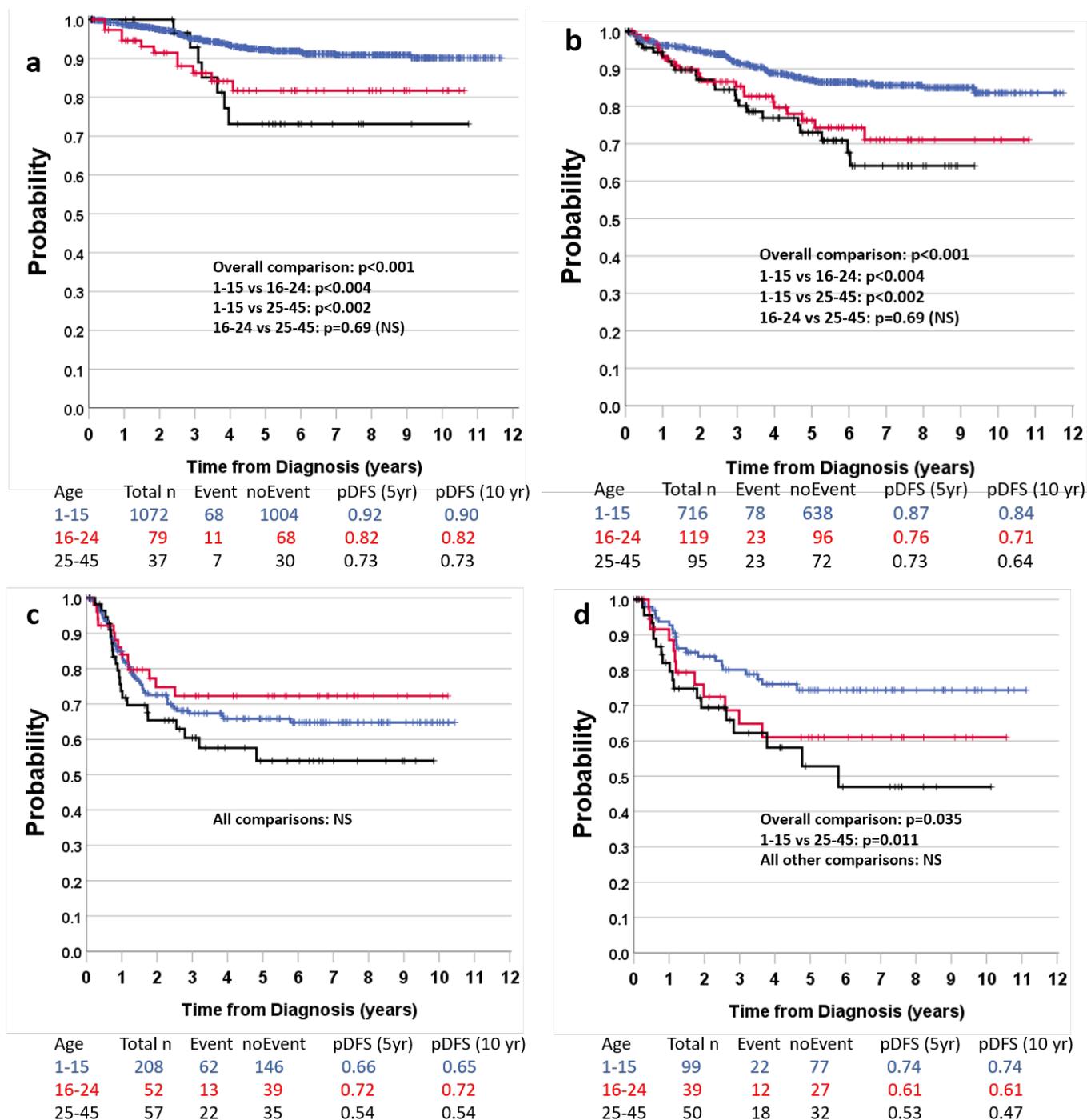


We have known for a long time that older patients fared worse and there was a lot of data supporting the notion that children and adults had biologically different features, but since stratification and treatment were different it was difficult to draw firm conclusions. The NOPHO ALL-2008 protocol provided a platform for (almost) uniform stratification and therapy and provided a firm foundation for very different risk-group profiles in the different age-groups:

Table 6. Risk-group in NOPHO ALL-2008 by ALLTogether age-groups.

	<16 years (%)	16-24 years (%)	25-45 years (%)	Total (%)
SR	1072 (51)	79 (27)	37 (15)	1188 (45)
IR	716 (34)	119 (41)	95 (40)	930 (36)
HR-chemo	208 (10)	52 (18)	57 (24)	317 (12)
HR-SCT	99 (5)	39 (13)	50 (21)	188 (7)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2095 (100)</b>	<b>289 (100)</b>	<b>239 (100)</b>	<b>2623 (100)</b>

Figure 5. ALL-2008, Non-B cell ALL 1-<45 years at diagnosis DFS for A2G age-groups stratified by risk-group. a) SR-patients b) IR-patients c) HR-chemo patients d) HSCT-patients.



The differences in the overall results were largely explained by differences in risk-group fractions by age-group, but with time it has become apparent that fairly substantial differences remain. All risk-groups have these differences, even if lack of power prevents statistical significance in some of the sub-groups. These differences remain almost unchanged if the bulk of the paediatric patients from the incidence-peak 2-5 years – the high hyperdiploid and ETV6-RUNX1 patients are excluded from the analyses (not shown).

Some differences attributable to age remain and continued cooperation between paediatric- and adult haematologists is necessary to identify the critical points. Even with these differences, the results in the adult group is among the best in the world for this age-group. Also the paediatric results compare well with other international results.

Figure 7. ALLTogether1 Pilot study enrollment and exclusions.

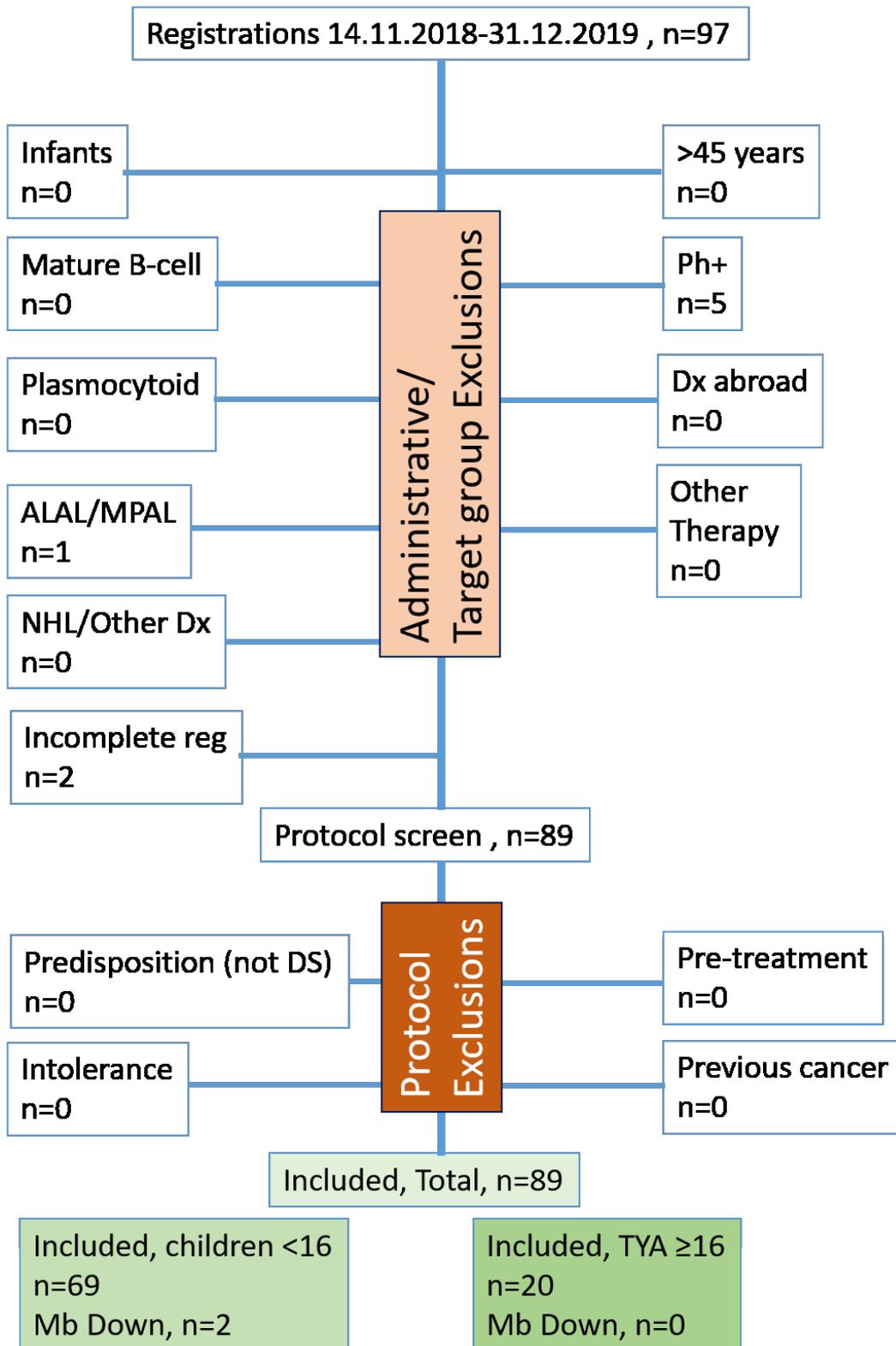


Table 7. Clinical characteristics of ALLTogether Pilot patients.

	<16 years (%) n=69	≥16years (%) n=20	Total (%) n=89
<b>Age</b>			
<10	56 (81)	-	56 (63)
10-15	13 (19)	-	13 (15)
16-24	-	9 (45)	9 (10)
25-45	-	11 (55)	11 (12)
<b>WBC</b>			
<50	55 (80)	16 (80)	71 (80)
≥50	14 (20)	4 (20)	18 (20)
<b>Immunphenotype</b>			
BCP	64 (93)	14 (70)	78 (88)
T-cell	5 (7)	6 (30)	11 (12)
<b>CNS</b>			
CNS1	43 (62)	12 (60)	55 (62)
TLP-	12 (18)	4 (20)	16 (18)
CNS2	7 (10)	1 (5)	8 (9)
TLP <5 WBC	2 (3)	2 (10)	4 (4)
CNS3	1 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1)
TLP≥5 WBC	4 (6)	1 (5)	5 (6)
<b>Genetics</b>			
HeH/ETV6-RUNX1	38 (55)	0 (0)	38 (43)
HR-genetics	5 (7)	4 (20)	9 (10)
B-other	14 (21)	7 (35)	21 (24)
T-cell NOS	5 (7)	4 (20)	9 (10)
Missing	7 (10)	5 (25)	12 (13)
<b>Induction</b>			
3-drug	45 (69)	0 (0)	45 (54)
4-drug	19 (29)	19 (100)	38 (45)
Down	1 (2)	0	1 (1)
Missing	4	1	5
<b>Strat/Therapy d29</b>			
SR-consolidation	26 (42)	2 (17)	28 (38)
IR/HR-consolidation	35 (56)	10 (83)	45 (61)
Other	1 (2)	0 (0)	1 (1)
Missing	7	8	15
<b>Strat/Therapy d71</b>			
SR	20 (38)	2 (18)	22 (36)
IR-low	11 (21)	0 (0)	11 (18)
IR-high	17 (33)	6 (55)	23 (37)
IR-Down	2 (4)	0 (0)	2 (3)
HR-HSCT	1 (2)	3 (27)	4 (6)
<b>Protocol Therapy Failure</b>			
Missing	17	9	26

Numbers are small yet, but there is a surprisingly high fraction of SR-patients. MRD-data will have to be scrutinised, but we expect this fraction to go down. Registration of data is lagging behind and needs to improve. This may also partly be due to data-management, which is effectively not in place yet, because of the need for work on the registration-system ahead of the start of the main study.

### Leukaemic adverse events

There have been four adverse events among the ALLTogether Pilot patients: 1 Protocol Therapy Failure (PTF - resistant disease), 2 relapses and one death in CR1.

- SR: 0 events
- IR-low: 0 events
- IR-high: 2 relapses
- HR-chemo: 0 patients
- HR-HSCT: 1 PTF, 1 DCR1

The PTF was a T-cell patient <16 years at diagnosis with hyperleukocytosis. Therapy was not completely according to protocol, but the disease was obviously highly resistant and is assessed as PTF. The patient went into remission after extensive off-protocol therapy, but relapsed and died of progressive disease.

Both relapses occurred in the IR-high group, were early isolated BM-relapses, one in a TYA T-cell patient (16-24 years old) with hyperleukocytosis at diagnosis and the other in a child <16 years at diagnosis with B-other BCP-ALL. Both patients died of progressive disease.

The death in CR1 was post HSCT and occurred in a patient 25-45 years at diagnosis.

### Toxicity

The only treatment-related mortality in the cohort diagnosed up to December 2019 is the DCR1 described above after HSCT.

A new important feature of the registration-system is the possibility to report Adverse Events of Special Interest (AESIs) linked to a treatment phase (mostly sub-lethal toxicity). There is an obvious paucity of registrations for the later parts of the protocol, but induction and Consolidation 1 are new to NOPHO and therefore of great interest.

**Table 8. Induction toxicity by age-group (all toxicities by protocol definitions)**

Toxicity (induction)	<16 years (%) n=69	≥16years (%) n=20	Total (%) n=89
ICU Ass ventil*	1	0	0
ICU Pressure sup*	0	0	0
Allergy	1	0	1
Heart failure	0	0	0
Kidney failure	0	0	0
Hypertension	0	0	0
Pancreatitis	1	0	1
Diabetes (IDDM)	5	5	10
Enterocolitis	0	0	0
Liver failure	0	1	1
SOS/VOD	0	0	0
VTE	2	3	5
Osteonecrosis	0	0	0
CNS-toxicity	0	1	1
Peripheral neurop	1	0	1
Invasive fungal inf	1	0	1
PJP-pneumonia	0	0	0
Failure to report	8 (12)	7 (35)	15 (17)

\*ICU does not refer to the treating unit, but to the need for either assisted ventilation (CPAP, mechanical ventilation or ECMO) or inotropic pressure support.

The change in induction therapy has led to some Asparaginase-related events recorded in induction. The dominating toxicity so far is the need for insulin, which may be related to the change to Dexamethasone for most patients.

Off the record, adult haematologists have reported a high frequency of Asparaginase-related complications – mostly liver-toxicity during induction and also one induction death in a patient diagnosed in 2020. This may lead to a need for adaption of the toxicity-registration and a special survey is urgently on the way to address this problem.

Registration needs to improve, particularly in the adult group. More than a third of the adult group – possibly in most need of the protection of the surveillance – are missing the toxicity-registration altogether.

**Table 9. Toxicity associated with Consolidation 1.**

Toxicity (induction)	<16 years (%) n=69	≥16years (%) n=20	Total (%) n=89
ICU Ventilation	1	0	1
ICU Pressure supp	1	0	1
Allergy	1	3	4
Heart failure	0	0	0
Kidney failure	0	0	0
Hypertension	0	0	0
Pancreatitis	1	0	1
Diabetes (IDDM)	0	1	1
Enterocolitis	2	0	2
Liver failure	0	2	2
SOS/VOD	2	1	3
VTE	2	4	6
Osteonecrosis	0	0	0
CNS-toxicity	0	0	0
Peripheral neurop	0	1	1
Invasive fungal inf	1	0	1
PJP-pneumonia	0	0	0
Failure to report	16 (23)	10 (50)	26 (29)

Reporting is clearly lagging behind. The low number of registered patients and events precludes firm conclusions, but severe liver toxicity may be more frequent than in previous protocols as mentioned above.

## Concluding remarks

With a focus on the implementation of the new protocol, resources seem to be stretched when it comes to taking care of the routines of registration.

This is unfortunate – our concluding research-projects summing up the NOPHO ALL-2008 experience will be lacking important follow-up parameters. Apart from making sure that primary events – and the corresponding follow-up in first remission is up-to-date, it is particularly urgent to register follow-up after primary events, since it affects the overall survival. It is almost for certain that we have missed some deaths after relapse in the present survey. It is of utmost importance to understand if patients are salvageable to evaluate if primary therapy can be de-escalated or not.

For the ALLTogether patients, registration is potentially even more important. The therapy administered is new to the treating centres and we have a unique chance to identify problems. This is particularly important for patients older than 24 years, who have not been treated with the protocol serving as a template for the early parts of the protocol, UKALL2003 and UKALL2011 before.

Nevertheless, the early registration of ALLTogether Pilot Protocol patients and the feedback from registering centres have been invaluable to identify problems, ambiguities and necessary alterations in the structure, since we are now in the process of identifying the desired final alterations to the ALLTogether1 registration system and implement them before study start.

We would like to thank all who participate in the work with registration and other contributions to the completeness and quality of the NOPHO ALL registry. We hope that the NOPHO collaboration will continue to be fruitful also in the context of the coming ALLTogether wider collaboration.

For the registration group, Stockholm, springtime 2020

Mats Heyman

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For details on recruitment and outcome see NOPHO Annual Report ALL2008-section and presentations from previous ALL2008 WG meetings at [www.nopho.org](http://www.nopho.org).

### Meetings

The ALL2008 study committee has merged with the ALL working group, and updates and research on ALL2008 patients are presented at ALL working group meetings and subsequently posted as part of the ALL working group meeting minutes at [www.nopho.org](http://www.nopho.org). In addition, results and challenges relating to NOPHO ALL2008 have been presented at various meetings in pharmacology WG, MRD WG, ALL event WG, ALL biology WG, and adult ALL meetings. Focus is now only on scientific data exploration and publications.

### Protocol/study cohort

By March 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 (when randomisations were closed) a total of 1908 patients had been registered in the NOPHO ALL2008 register. Of these 141 (7.4%) are excluded from the ALL2008 study cohort due to Down and other ALL prone syndromes, previous cancer, mixed phenotype ALL, pre-treatment etc., thus leaving 1469 children and 298 adults in the core cohort for publications. The baseline results of ALL2008 for children and adults have been published (Toft, Leukemia 2018).

### Randomisations

The protocol was opened July 1<sup>st</sup> 2008. The three randomised studies opened for children January 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, but with some delays in entering of patients depending on the approval process in the involved countries. Recruitment has been somewhat below what was projected. Not least R2 (asparaginase at 2 vs. 6 wks intervals) would need several more years of accrual for the study to be sufficiently powered. This reflects poorer recruitment rates (explained by parental refusal and toxicities during consolidation) and somewhat lower relapse rate than originally anticipated. A detailed report was filed to the DSMC

December 2015 presenting outcome and toxicity data. Based on these data the DSMC recommended closure of the Rx1 and Rx2, and both studies were closed March 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.

Low dose 6MP and intermittent asparaginase became standard of care. 788 patients have been randomised to Rx1 and 625 to Rx2.

Rx1 has been published (Tulstrup, Eur J Haematol 2018) – although 6MP provided borderline significant improvements in fraction of MRD negative patients day 79, no benefit with respect to pEFS was detected.

Rx2: Intermittent asparaginase became the standard of care (Albertsen J Clin Oncol 2019).

Rx3 (+/- Depocyte in HR maintenance) was closed due to insufficient recruitment and problems with drug supply. The Rx3 study showed borderline significant benefit of Depocyte (Levinsen, J Ped Hematol Oncol 2016).

## MRD

The T-ALL MRD data has been published in detailed covering both PCR and flow cytometry. They are equally predictive of outcome and support the choice of 10<sup>-3</sup> as the cut-off (Modvig, Leukemia 2018). A similar study is being performed for BCP-ALL and is expected to be submitted for publication before the summer 2020.

## Toxicity

The compliance to toxicity registration (20 specified toxicities to be registered at 3 months intervals) has been excellent, but reliability differs between the various toxicities. Toxicity profiles for children and adults have been published (Toft, Eur J Haematol 2016; Toft, Leukemia 2018; Rank, Blood 2018). Scrutinization of patient files has revealed that for some toxicities (e.g. peripheral neuropathy) the toxicity data that are routinely captured do not reflect the true incidence. For others including allergy, pancreatitis, thrombosis, and osteonecrosis, the reported toxicity frequencies seem reliable. Approximately 50% of all patients experience one or more of the 20 toxicities. Several of these have been registered in more than 50 patients (allergy, thrombosis, pancreatitis etc) and are being or have been scrutinised in detail (and published). In addition, data on pancreatitis (Wolthers Lancet Oncology 2017), osteonecrosis, neurotoxicity, thromboembolism, invasive fungal infections, induction deaths, asparaginase hypersensitivity, and HD-MTX associated acute nephrotoxicity are part of the Ponte di Legno Toxicity Working group activities. In general, adults are not more burdened by toxicities than adolescents, but experience more thromboembolism (Rank, Blood 2018). Although the simplified MRD-based risk stratification and the major changes in the ALL2008 protocol compared to our previous treatment strategies seem to have reduced the overall relapse rate (especially for T-ALL), the protocol have been somewhat burdened by toxic death. Several amendments to the blocks have aimed to counteract this, and since the latest amendments November 2011 (see [www.nopho.org](http://www.nopho.org)) the toxic death rate for HR-ALL has been acceptable (<5%).

## Add-on research

Three large add-on studies are integrated into ALL2008 (see publications):

- a. **Host genomics:** Host DNA has been collected from approximately 90% of the patients. The first ~1300 patients have been exome-enriched SNP-profiled (Illumina Human OmniExome 2.5M). The phenotypes currently addressed are pancreatitis, hyperleukocytosis, CNS leukemia, thrombosis, osteonecrosis, asparaginase allergy, neurotoxicity, high-dose MTX clearance, MTX/6MP metabolism, MRD and relapse rates. The first paper on AAP has been published and results are now being validated and expanded in a Ponte di Legno study. SNP profiling will be a research project in the ALLTogether study, being coordinated from Copenhagen.
- b. **Maintenance therapy monitoring:** Blood sampling has been somewhat below the set target with wide variation between countries and centers. The study has demonstrated strong associations between upstream metabolites and DNA-TGN. This has subsequently been validated in an independent cohort and a strong significant association between DNA-TGN and relapse risk has been shown (HR 0.72 per 100 fmol/micromole DNA for d29 MRD positive patients) (Nielsen, Lancet Oncol

- 2017). These findings have been confirmed in a large international meta-analysis (to be published). The benefit of adding 6TG to MTX/6MP based maintenance therapy to increase DNA-TGN will be tested in a randomized trial (“TEAM”) as part of the ALLTogether protocol. Furthermore, in the ALLTogether protocol all 7,000+ patients will be monitored for MTX/thiopurine metabolites with feedback to the clinicians if results indicate poor treatment adherence (low metabolite levels).
- c. Asparaginase antibody and activity monitoring: Sampling has been satisfactory with approximately 8-9 samples having been received per patient. The activity monitoring (by Birgitte Klug Albertsen) will be carried forward in the ALLTogether protocol.
  - d. CSF flow cytometry: The study has been finalized and demonstrated a highly significant association between CSF positivity and risk of both BM and CNS relapse (Thastrup, Leukemia 2020).

#### Publications based on ALL2008 protocol data

1. **Raja R, Schmiegelow K, Frandsen T.** *Asparaginase-associated pancreatitis in children.* Br J Haematol 2012;159:18-27.
2. **Toft N, Birgens H, Abrahamsson J, Bernell P, Griškevičius L, Hallböök H, Heyman M, Holm MS, Hulegårdh E, Klausen TW, Marquart HV, Jónsson OG, Nielsen OJ, Paulsen PQ, Taskinen M, Vaitkeviciene G, Vettenranta K, Åsberg A, Schmiegelow K.** *Risk group assignment differs for children and adults 1–45 years with acute lymphoblastic leukemia treated by the NOPHO ALL-2008 protocol.* Eur J Haematol 2013; 90: 404-12.
3. **Ebbesen MS, Nersting J, Jacobsen JH, Frandsen TL, Vettenranta K, Abramsson J, Wesenberg F, Schmiegelow K.** *Incorporation of 6-thioguanine nucleotides into DNA during maintenance therapy of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia – the influence of thiopurine methyltransferase genotypes.* J Clin Pharmacol 2013; 53: 670-4.
4. **Rasmussen MM, Christensen RH, Gregers J, Heldrup J, Nersting J, Schmiegelow K.** *Can SLC19A1 80G>A polymorphisms predict risk of extremely delayed MTX-excretion after high dose Methotrexate?* J Ped Hematol Oncol 2013; 35: 417-8.
5. **Vaitkeviciene G, Heyman M, Jonsson OG, Lausen B, Harila-Saari A, Stenmarker M, Taskinen M, Zvirblis T, Asberg A, Groth-Pedersen L, Rageliene L, Schmiegelow K.** *Early morbidity and mortality in childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia with very high white blood cell count.* Leukemia 2013; 27: 2259-62.
6. **Frandsen TL, Heyman M, Abrahamsson J, Vettenranta K, Åsberg A, Vaitkeviciene G, Pruunsild K, Toft N, Helt L, Bach KF, Schmiegelow K.** *Complying with the European Clinical Trials Directive while surviving the administrative pressure - an alternative approach to toxicity registration in a cancer trial.* Eur J Cancer 2014; 50: 251-9.
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8. **Levensen M, Taskinen M, Abrahamsson J, Forestier E, Frandsen TL, Harila-Saari A, Heyman M, Jonsson OG, Lähteenmäki PM, Lausen B, Vaitkeviciene G, Asberg A, Schmiegelow K; Nordic Society of Paediatric Haematology and Oncology (NOPHO).** *Central nervous system involvement in childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia at diagnosis: Clinical features and early treatment response.* Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2014; 61:1416-21.
9. **Henriksen LT, Nersting J, Raja RA, Frandsen TL, Rosthøj S, Schröder H, Albertsen BK; Nordic Society of Paediatric Haematology and Oncology (NOPHO) group.** *Cerebrospinal fluid asparagine depletion during pegylated asparaginase therapy in children with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.* Br J Haematol. 2014;166: 213-20.
10. **Vaitkeviciene G, Matuzeviciene R, Stoskus M, Zvirblis T, Rageliene L, Schmiegelow K.** *Cure rates of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia in Lithuania and the benefit of joining international treatment protocol.* Medicina (Kaunas) 2014; 50: 28-36.
11. **Henriksen LT, Harila-Saari A, Ruud E, Abrahamsson J, Pruunsild K, Vaitkeviciene G, Jónsson ÓG, Schmiegelow K, Heyman M, Schröder H, Albertsen BK; Nordic Society of Paediatric Haematology and Oncology (NOPHO) group.** *PEG-asparaginase allergy in children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in the NOPHO ALL2008 protocol.* Pediatr Blood Cancer 2015; 62: 427-33.
12. **Ranta S, Tuckuviene R, Mäkiperna A, Albertsen BK, Frisk T, Tedgård U, Jónsson ÓG, Pruun-**

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## ALL Relapse Working Group

### Members

(email addresses: see NOPHO website)

<b>Sweden</b>	Petter Svenberg (Chair 2019-2020, PI SR, HR) Mats Heyman Trausti Óskarsson
<b>Denmark</b>	Bodil Elise Thorhaug Als-Nielsen (PI SR) Peder Skov Wehner
<b>Finland</b>	Päivi Lähteenmäki (PI SR, HR) Laura Korhonen
<b>Iceland</b>	Ólafur Gísli Jónsson
<b>Lithuania</b>	Goda Vaitkeviciene
<b>Norway</b>	Inga Maria Johannsdottir (PI SR) Jochen Büchner (SCT, CART-cell therapy) Dorota Malgorzata-Wojcik

The NOPHO ALL relapse WG has had 4 telephone conferences (please visit the NOPHO website under NOPHO Working groups for meeting minutes) since the last report. In May 2019 Petter Svenberg was chosen to replace Päivi Lähteenmäki as the WG-chair.

**Status of IntReALL SR –study:** Denmark, Norway and Finland are recruiting, Sweden has finalized the contracting process. Randomization one is still ongoing but the second randomization (epratuzumab) is closed. The sponsor of the study (Berlin Charité) has informed that IntReALL 2010 SR study will close in July 2020.

**Status of IntReALL HR -study:** Finland is ready for patient recruitment but none so far and Sweden has finalized the contract process. Norway and Denmark will not participate.

The field of BCP-ALL relapse treatment is rapidly changing. During the ASH meeting 2019, the childrens oncology group presented the AALL1331-study. The design was IR/HR- patients in 1st relapse was randomized after induction to either receiving 2 blocks of chemotherapy or two rounds of Blinatumomab during consolidation. The study was recommended early closure due to shown superiority of the Blinatumomab-arm regarding DFS, OS, adverse advents and MRD clearance. The IntReALL-group has already decided to replace the third (HC3) consolidation in the HR-study block with Blinatumomab (off-study) and we now await a substantial amendment for the HR consolidation treatment. In the mean time, treatment for HR patients in the near future will partially differ in the NOPHO countries. In order to learn in this emerging field, the group has been encouraged to discuss and share challenging cases and have done so throughout the year.

Optional HR ALL-relapse treatment studies are open, such as Daratumomab (Stockholm), Isutuximab (Oslo and Gothenburg), Inotuzumab ozogamicin (Copenhagen, Helsinki and Stockholm), Carfilzomib (Copenhagen) and CAR-T-cells (Oslo, Stockholm, Helsinki and Copenhagen).

The IBFM-SG resistant disease committee/ IntReALL meeting took place in Nice (France) 15-16/11.2019, and Petter Svenberg represented the WG there. One topic of discussion was the new protocol (IntReALL 2020), which is under construction. To date, the present design will entail two separate protocols for patients with T-cell and BCP-ALL relapse. Also, BCP ALL patients will be stratified in three groups (SR, HR and VHR). Not yet resolved is whether Inotuzumab ozogamicin will be included in a randomization during induction and whether there will be a randomization between SCT and CAR T-cell therapy at EOI for the HR patients.

In 2019, NOPHO joined the IntReALL-related virtual biobank system (ViBe/Scopeland) and the first payment was taken care of with a Finnish research grant. A previous WG decision was that if further payments are needed, grant application would be an option.

The ALL-SCT-PED2012-FORUM study for relapsed ALL patients with an indication for SCT was halted due to shown superiority, with regards to OS and EFS, of the standard arm (VP16+TBI conditioning) compared to the experimental arm (Busulfan/Thiotepa/Fludarabine but no TBI).

The present Covid -19 pandemic may prevent the next scheduled WG-meeting in Trondheim during the NOPHO Annual meeting on Friday May 8th from 0930 to 11 o'clock (before LLC). We will see.

For the working group  
Petter Svenberg  
Stockholm, March 2020

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## Events Working Group (EWG)

### Members

<b>Sweden</b>	Arja Harila-Saari (chair) Anna Nilsson Cecilia Langenskiöld Mats Heyman (ALLTogether) Mia Giertz (Osteonecrosis, secretary for the group)
<b>Denmark</b>	Bodil Thorhauge Als-Nielsen Birgitte Klug Albertsen Kjeld Schmiegelow Ruta Tuckuviene (Thrombosis group)
<b>Norway</b>	Bendik Lund Niklas Bernhard Stabell
<b>Finland</b>	Riitta Niinimäki Anu Huurre
<b>Lithuania</b>	Goda Vaitkeviciene

Arja Harila-Saari was elected to chair the group after Thomas Frandsen who stepped down in February 2019. The group has had two meetings: 16 September with 18 participants and 17 February with 12 participants. Both meetings were arranged at the Arlanda airport, Stockholm.

The main focus areas of the group are follow-up and definitions of events in leukemia protocols, as well as toxicity reporting, follow-up and guidelines for the treatment of the adverse events. The group has mainly but not only worked with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL).

### 1. Treatment-related mortality (TRM) ALL 2008 GWAS study (Bendik Lund)

The plan is to identify SNPs/genes/pathways identifying death from treatment and not cancer. This case-control study has been approved by NOPHO SC May 2019. The plan is to collect DNA from the local labs for patients who have not a sample sent for the NOPHO ALL2008 “SNP study” during 2020 to be able to do the sequencing. The study cohort includes 72 patients, most of whom have died of infections. The most common cause of death is infection. NOPHO data will contribute to a larger study with several international participants.

### 2. A study on febrile neutropenia within the Nordic countries

A newly established Nordic pediatric infectious diseases (NORDPID) group plans to start a prospective randomized study with Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and Iceland on the treatment of neutropenic fever. Event group members Anna Nilsson and Bendik Lund are members of the NORDPID group. The group will start by performing a literature review and collecting data on the standard of care (SOC) in different centers. Thereafter a randomized study is planned, but the exact design is still open.

### 3. Intensive care and ECMO treatments in Swedish leukemia patients (Susanna Ranta).

Susanna Ranta is leading a national study on intensive care in children with leukemia/NH lymphoma. It combines information from the Swedish intensive care register with the Swedish childhood cancer registry and questionnaires to each center. The first results show that 12/964 (1.2%) of non-transplanted children with leukemia are treated with ECMO in Sweden. Overall survival has been 50% after ECMO, which is in line with survival in other pediatric ECMO treated patients. As many as 15% of ALL patients received intensive care during first-line treatment.

### 4. Impact of BMI on SAEs and outcome in ALL (Christina Egnell Gustafsson)

Data on BMI at diagnosis in the NOPHO ALL 92/2000/2008 protocols shows that obesity at diagnosis of ALL is a risk factor in older children 10-17 y, and especially the risk of relapse is increased. Also, underweight children are at-risk of events. In the study on BMI and toxicity in the NOPHO ALL2008 protocol; 1353 patients 2-18 years old are included from 2008-2016. Preliminary results show that only 2,6% (35pts) were obese; the most common SAE was kidney dysfunction and abdominal problems leading to laparotomy. No difference in the incidence of ON, thrombosis, pancreatitis. The plan is to look more in detail at the obese patients: the toxicities, weight development, MTX concentrations/dosing in relation to body surface area.

Study on MTX pharmacokinetics and toxicity in obese NOPHO ALL2008-patients aims to collect data from the centers on them, and merging data from the previous MTX databases.

### 5. Hyperleukocytosis in ALL survey (Ignas Kléjus)

85 patients with ALL and hyperleukocytosis from 6 NOPHO-countries were included. 14 of them were treated in ICU (13 before chemotherapy, 1 after chemotherapy). Results showed T-cell patients have higher WBC at diagnosis and a higher risk of tumor lysis syndrome. An important message of the study is that the start of chemotherapy should not be delayed.

### 6. Leukemia events and SAEs in the ALLTogether protocol (Mats Heyman)

The role of the group is dealing with leukemia events and SAEs and look at guidelines in the ALLTogether. The group has gone through the events: Induction death, Resistant disease, Relapse, death in complete remission 1 (DCR1), secondary malignancies (SMN) and their definitions as well as bone marrow (BM) remission, BM resistant disease, CNS-remission.

Amendments to the ALLTogether protocol version 4.1 will be sent. The following suggestions were supported: Down patients with ALL fulfill criteria for protocol therapy failure when MRD  $\geq$  1% EOC (day 99) or off protocol d57. Most Down patients who do not reach CR at TP1 (MRD pos but  $<$ 5% or MRD  $\geq$  5% -  $<$ 25%) will get Blinatumomab 1-2 cycles and then continue with the protocol. Clarification of wording about mediastinal mass in BCP-patients. Definition of relapse: if MRD  $\geq$ 5% only one technique is needed to confirm, but if MRD  $\geq$ 1% a repeated BM with another technique within 1-4 weeks is needed. The group will follow closely the Castor toxicity reporting functions and suggest additional information to help function when a need is found.

### 7. Osteonecrosis (Mia Giertz)

BISON-study (RCT about bisphosphonates to ALL-patients with ON) is paused because an abstract published in 2018 showed poorer outcomes in murine models who were given bisphosphonates during induction therapy for ALL. Waiting for other studies to be presented before going forward with the study. The plan is now to start with a follow-up study on NOPHO ALL 2008-cohort, incidence, treatment and radiological classification of ON which is seen as a late-effect study.

A study on osteonecrosis and venous thrombosis in children and young adults treated for Hodgkin lymphoma in Sweden, Finland and Denmark is initiated. Patient questionnaires and CRFs will be sent out to study incidence, treatment and outcome of venous thrombosis and osteonecrosis. MRT-scans will be reviewed to determine the radiological progress and predictive value of the Niinimäki radiological classification system. NOPHO-study status has been applied, if any other Nordic country is interested, please contact Mia.

## 8. Asparaginase studies (Birgitte Klug Albertsen)

The risk of relapse after truncation of asparaginase treatment in the ALLTogether protocol will be studied in detail. NOPHO ALL 2008 showed that 8 compared to 15 doses of Asp gave the same outcome but fewer toxicities. There is an increased risk of relapse when truncated after 5 doses. Unpublished data from truncated Asp treatment shows that enzyme activity is important. A study in ALLTogether is planned to include 6000 patients during 5 years. Plan to identify the length of Asp treatment needed to cure the patients.

A study comparing of hypersensitivity reactions after intravenous and intramuscular administration of asparaginase in the ALLTogether protocol is proposed as an add-on study in ALLTogether. Several studies have tried to compare reactions on Asp administered IV or IM. Observation from ALLTogether pilot in Denmark shows true allergic reactions in 14.8%. 6/8 reactions were severe after iv administration. The reactions come later, after 4 doses vs 2 in the NOPHO ALL2008. UKALL will administrate asparaginase intramuscularly, meanwhile, the other countries use intravenous administration; the aim is to compare the incidence between the groups.

## 9. CNS flow and acute neurotoxicity in ALL (Susanna Ranta)

CNS involvement at ALL-diagnosis is associated with neurotoxicity/PRES. The objective is to merge data from 2 studies to look at FCM and the presence of seizures, PRES or another neurotoxicity. Only previous data, no extra workload but needs a National representative and ethical permission from each country.

## 10. Omega-3 fish oil (Bodil Als-Nielsen)

A randomized trial that has started in Copenhagen and is aimed to be expanded to a NOPHO study. Fish oil supplement is given to children with ALL treated for SR, IR-low and IR-high in the ALLTogether protocol, to look at the effect on the hypertriglyceridemia as the primary endpoint. Other endpoints osteonecrosis, pancreatitis and thrombosis. Planning to recruit 100 patients, (50/50 – fish oil/placebo). The study will be difficult to conduct in Norway where most children already receive fish oil supplements.

## 11. Study proposal on pancreatitis (Pernille Rydebeck)

Study on late effects in NOPHO ALL 2008 survivors with pancreatitis during therapy. 168 patients have had pancreatitis, both children and adults. Assessment of endocrine and exocrine pancreatic function after pancreatitis with glucose tolerance and insulin resistance. The study is intended to become a NOPHO study. The data collection is suggested to be coordinated with other ongoing late effect studies, like ALLSTAR and HALLON.

## 12. Thrombosis (Ruta Tuckuviene)

A prospective thrombosis study is the plan is to collect more detailed data about thrombosis in the ALLTogether protocol in the NOPHO-countries. Application for NOPHO-study will be sent in. A substudy will be looking at the re-exposure of Asparaginase in patients treated for venous sinus thrombosis.

## 13. Next Event group meeting will be 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 in Stockholm

## NOPHO ALLTogether Working Group

<b>Coordinators</b>	Mats Heyman
<b>Denmark</b>	Kjeld Schmiegelow Birgitte Klug Albertsen Bodil Elise Thorhauge Als-Nielsen
<b>Estonia</b>	Kristi Lepik
<b>Finland</b>	Mervi Taskinen Olli Lohi Päivi Lähteenmäki
<b>Iceland</b>	Ólafur Gísli Jónsson
<b>Lithuania</b>	Goda Vaitkeviciene
<b>Norway</b>	Inga Maria Rinvoll Johansdottir Trond Flaegstad
<b>Sweden</b>	Mats Heyman Johan Malmros Arja Harila-Saari Lene Karlsson
<b>Adult representatives</b>	Helene Hallböök (Sweden) Nina Toft (Denmark) Ulrik Overgaard (Denmark) Ulla Wartiovaara-Kautto (Finland) Hilde Skuterud Wik (Norway) Laimonas Griskevicius (Lithuania) Mari Punab (Estonia)
<b>Representatives in ALLTogether task-forces</b>	
<b>Cytogenetics</b>	Bertil Johansson
<b>MRD</b>	Hanne Marquart, Hans Ole Madsen
<b>CAR-T</b>	Jochen Büchner
<b>Toxicity</b>	Jukka Kanerva, Arja Harila-Saari
<b>Asp-TDM</b>	Birgitte Klug Albertsen
<b>SCT</b>	Marianne Ifversen
<b>Osteonecrosis</b>	Riitta Niinimäki
<b>HDM</b>	Torben Stam Mikkelsen, Kjeld Schmiegelow
<b>Maintenance</b>	Kjeld Schmiegelow
<b>CNS</b>	Mervi Taskinen
<b>Trial Manager</b>	Karin Flood
<b>Regulatory</b>	Mats Heyman
<b>Statistics</b>	Mats Heyman, Matteo Bottai, Ida Hed Myrberg

### The Group

The ALLTogether-group was formed when NOPHO decided to join the ALLTogether consortium and then took over from the “NOPHO next protocol ALL-2016 group”. After most of the structure of the ALLTogether protocol has been finalised, the NOPHO ALLTogether group meetings have in the last three years merged with the ALL working-group meetings. This adds the input from the ALL-working-group members, who are not members of the ALLTogether working group and it also economises on travelling, but there is of course an obvious risk of over-loading the agenda and not getting enough time for the specific items for each group.

Meetings have taken place at Arlanda airport (25<sup>th</sup> of September 2019 and 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2020).

The group serves as an important reference-group for NOPHO opinions regarding changes in the protocol and the structure of the collaboration and prepares decisions taken by the LLC and the board regarding ALLTogether issues that need NOPHO-approval.

Very important aspects of the protocol work take place in the working-groups of ALLTogether, where procedures, routines as well as documentation are worked and prepared for decision by the protocol group/steering committee. The members of the NOPHO ALLTogether working-group shoulder an impressive responsibility and make important contributions to this work.

### The ALLTogether Protocol and the Pilot Study

The protocol was finalised in the summer of 2019 and submitted for regulatory approval in August 2019 through a “voluntary harmonised procedure” (VHP). A number of points raised by the competent authority appointed as responsible for the approval resulted in significant changes, the most important was that the TEAM-arm had to be removed from randomisation 3, since the IMPD for the liquid preparation of 6-Thioguanin was not available at the time of submission. All questions were eventually answered and the protocol was approved on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2019.

Since then, various mainly logistic hurdles (necessary contracts between sponsor and the participating countries, approvals from ethical review boards and in some countries biobank and data-protection authorities), but also the lack of some essential documents and necessary changes to the registration system have held up the start of the study, but it is now scheduled for start in the first countries in early June 2020.

Meanwhile, the first complete draft of the protocol has been in use as a pilot-study, partly to gain experience from the stratification and therapy and partly to test the logistics of the new diagnostics in genetics and MRD. The pilot was implemented first in Denmark (autumn 2018), Lithuania (January 2019), Sweden, Norway and Iceland (autumn 2019). Estonia will join the pilot shortly and will join the main study in 2021. Finland will not implement the pilot-study and will instead join the main study directly.

### Amendment of TEAM and Blinatumomab for Down patients

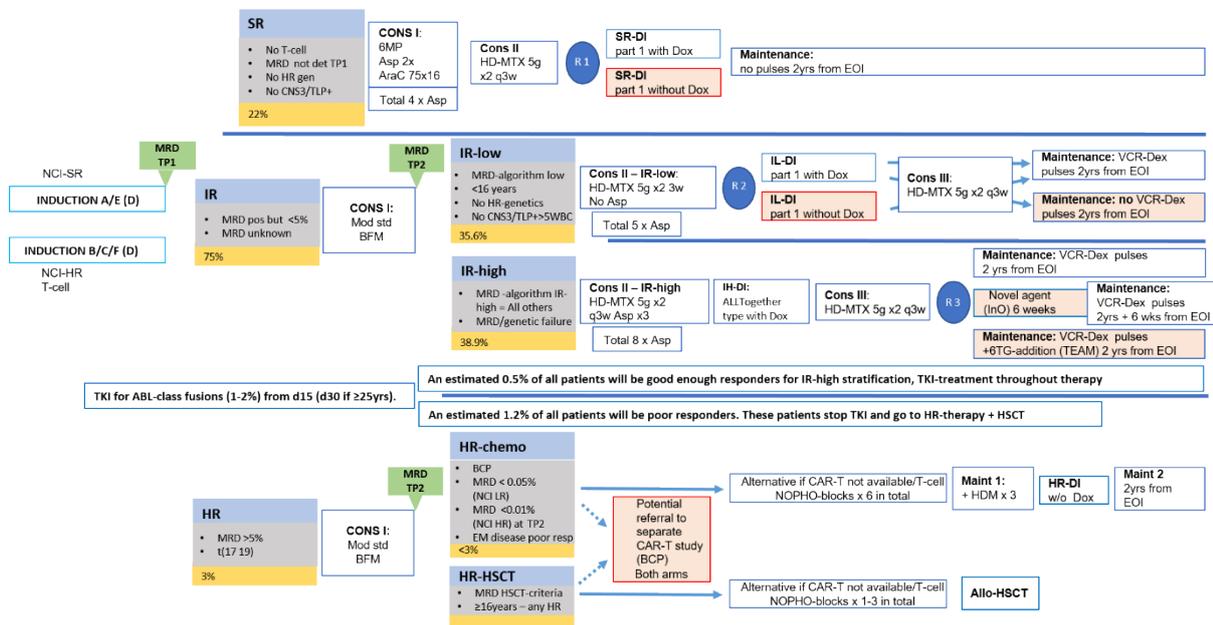
The omission of the TEAM-part of the study has led to the need for an early substantial amendment, when the necessary regulatory documents could be produced.

At the same a new intervention has been developed by Sujith Samarasinghe in the UK with the support from the manufacturer of Blinatumomab (Amgen) for patients with Down Syndrome (DS) and remaining MRD at the end of induction. The intervention consists of the non-randomised replacement of Consolidation 1 and 2 with two blocks of Blinatumomab with the aim to increase the fraction of DS patients achieving MRD-negative status and thereby improving their prognosis. A secondary aim is to reduce the toxicity. The proposal was discussed and approved by all national group, including the NOPHO ALLTogether wg, LLC and board as well as by the ALLTogether protocol group. The TEAM-element was of course a part of the original ALLTogether design and as such needed no approval.

An application for regulatory approval of this substantial amendment has been submitted in late April 2020 and the CA-decision is thus still pending.

**Figure 1. Treatment overview of the ALLTogether protocol including interventions – and the TEAM amendment element in R3**

## Therapy overview ALLTogether – including interventions



The Pilot study consists of the same elements but with the interventions removed:

- No R1 randomisation in the SR-arm – all patients receive standard DI
- No R2 randomisation in the IR-low arm – all patients receive standard DI and VCR-Dexa pulses in maintenance (no Inotuzumab, no TEAM addition of 6-Thioguanine to maintenance therapy)
- No R3 randomisation in the IR-high arm – all patients receive standard maintenance
- No addition of TKI for ABL-class fusion patients



## ALLTogether and additional research

The ALLTogether is also meant to be a platform for further ALL research. There has been a call for add-on studies and >30 such studies have been suggested. Several of these studies have been suggested by NOPHO researchers and NOPHO has taken the stance that NOPHO-participation in such studies should be approved by the NOPHO scientific committee.

The studies approved so far as sub-studies, such approved studies include:

- a study continuing the evaluation of leukaemic contamination of the CSF
- the analysis of the impact of asparaginase-activity (a spin-off of therapeutic drug-monitoring)
- maintenance monitoring (sprung from the NOPHO maintenance study)
- a study on the efficacy of Imatinib (in vitro and in vivo) for patients with ABL-class fusions in the leukaemic cells
- BRAIN – a study on cognitive long-term effects of ALL-treatment

## Practical aspects – clinically and administratively

The challenge now is to get NOPHO ready to start full participation in the study. This means major adaptation of processes locally and nationally:

- The use of a new registration system (Castor)
- The implementation of therapeutic drug monitoring of Asparaginase activity by the lab in Aarhus lead by Birgitte Klug Albertsen for all of NOPHO, including new registration in the RedCap system
- The implementation of MRD both by PCR and Flow cytometry as basis for treatment decision
- The application of GCP-principles to a larger part of the protocol – and for the randomised parts an increase in the burden of registration
- Future challenges include the full implementation of transfer of data from the MRD- and Cytogenetic NOPHO registration systems

As before, the NOPHO-representation in the protocol-group of ALLTogether is Mats Heyman, Mervi Taskinen and Kjeld Schmiegelow for paediatrics, Helene Hallböök, Nina Toft and Ulla Wartiovaara-Kautto for adult haematology. The representatives in the ALLTogether task-forces are listed above.

National PI:s for ALLTogether are: Johan Malmros (paed S), Helene Hallböök (adult S), Bodil Als-Nielsen (paed DK), Ulrik Malthe Overgaard (adult DK), Inga Maria Rinvoll Johannsdottir (paed N), Hilde Skuterud Wik (adult N), Mervi Taskinen (paed FIN), Ulla Wartiovaara-Kautto (adult FIN), Goda Vaitkeviciene (paed LT), Laimonas Griskevicius (adult LT), Kristi Lepik (paed EE), Mari Punab (adult EE).

Because of the very considerable administrative burden, a central trial office structure is needed. Karin Flood is heading this work as Trial Manager. The help of Jenny Juhlin from her position in the NOPHO secretariat with time dedicated to support for regulatory issues within NOPHO has also been extremely valuable. Adrian Levitsky is the head Data Manager and is as such in charge of design of the registration system – and will also be in charge of data-checks and controls of data. Because of the anticipated workload, a second data-manager is under recruitment.

Springtime 2020  
Mats Heyman

# AML Working Group

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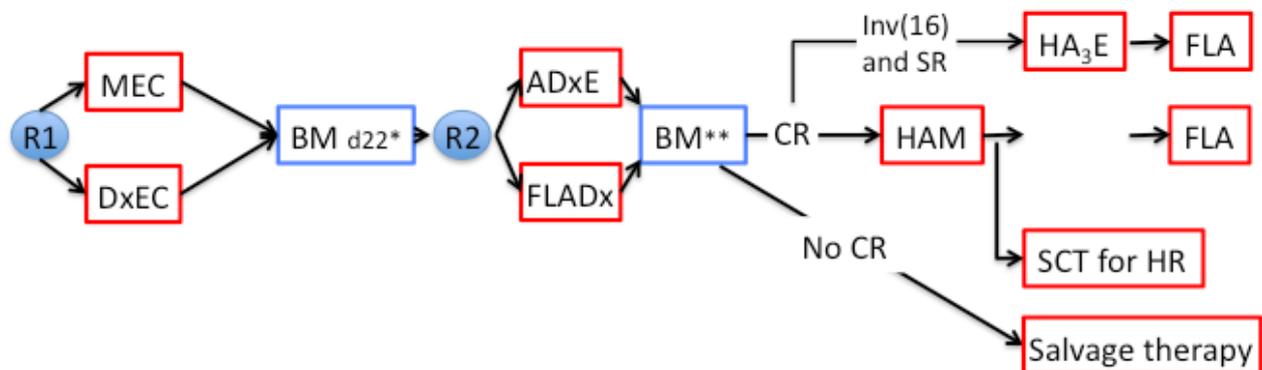


Figure 1. Overview of the current clinical research protocol NOPHO-DBH AML 2012. Evaluation of therapy response is performed on day 22 after the first course and immediately before consolidation. Patients are randomized to receive mitoxantrone or liposomal daunorubicin in course one and to receive ADxE or FLADx as second course. MEC and ADxE are standard arms in non-randomized patients.

## Organisation

The group has held two meetings during 2019. One in Helsinki, Finland and one in Copenhagen, Denmark. The meetings have functioned as PI meetings for the coordination and supervision of the treatment protocol NOPHO-DBH AML2012. During 2019 Spain has continued to open centers and at present treat patients at 17 centers. Portugal has still not opened the protocol officially.

We have continued to act as a platform for facilitating both biological and clinical research in pediatric AML and to include our new collaborators in AML2012 in NOPHO research as well as commencing new research activities together with the Belgian, Dutch, Hong Kong, Israeli and Spanish national AML groups. All NOPHO projects are discussed and coordinated with the leukemia biology group which allows for increased collaboration and scientific quality.

Several NOPHO AML research projects have been started and pursued during the year and NOPHO has participated in international collaborative scientific studies. The current AML2012 treatment study is expected to recruit patients to the second randomization during 2020 but the group has started to prepare for the next treatment protocol. A common aim within the group is to try to perform such a study with the countries currently involved in our consortium. At present, it seems likely that a new protocol will continue to rely on conventional drugs since few new drugs exist with documented efficacy to allow incorporation in an upfront protocol. An exception is FLT3 inhibitors which can be combined with conventional therapy and have promising efficacy. Therefore, the group has during 2019 initiated cooperation with the company Daiichi Sankyo who manufacture Quizartinib. The aim is to launch an upfront treatment study in FLT3-ITD positive patients based on addition of Quizartinib to the AML2012 backbone. One of the main reasons that the company chooses to cooperate with our group is that we use a highly effective standard therapy and can provide excellent historical controls for evaluation of MRD and other efficacy endpoints.

As usual, between meetings, members have frequent mail discussions both regarding individual patient treatment decisions and research issues.

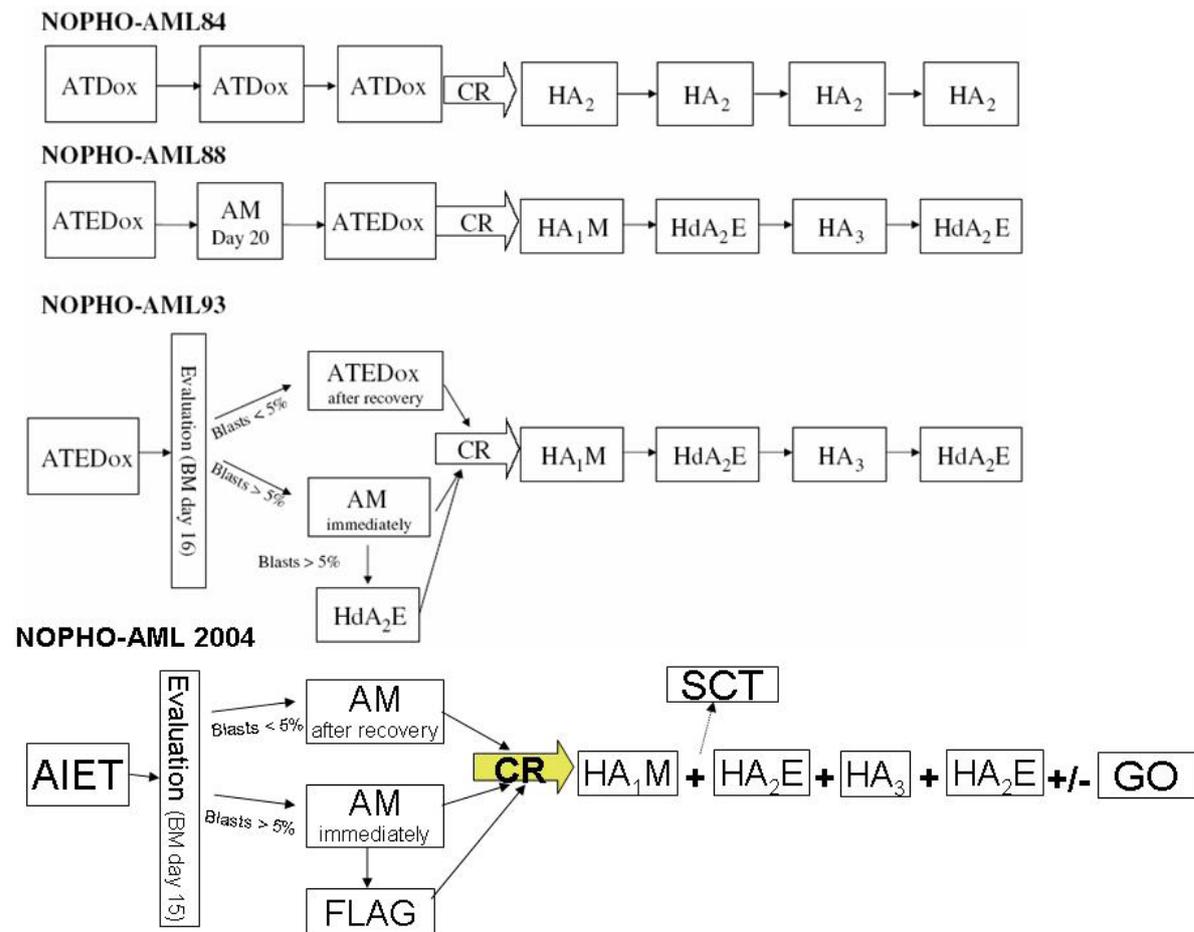
Jonas Abrahamsson has decided to step down after being NOPHO AML group chair for more than 8 years. The group has suggested and received approval from LLC to appoint Josefine Palle as new chair and also that a position as vice chair is established and appointed Kees-Jan Pronk .

## Introduction

NOPHO has from 1984 until 2013 treated children with AML on four common protocols: NOPHO-AML84, -88-, -93 and -2004. The outline for treatment in the respective protocols is demonstrated in figure 2. All protocols have been based on induction therapy with anthracycline, cytarabine and 6-thioguanin with etoposide added from 1988 followed by consolidation based on high-dose cytarabine. Since 1993 a response guided induction strategy has been used, allowing hematological recovery for children in remission after the first course prior to giving the second course. Compared to the previous intensively timed induction this markedly reduced mortality in induction.

From NOPHO-AML84 to NOPHO-AML93, outcome improved significantly and the NOPHO-AML93 had a 5 year EFS of 50%. Overall survival was 65% which at that time was the highest reported in childhood AML.

However, the steady trend towards improvement was broken with the NOPHO AML 2004 protocol. Although survival increased to 70% the EFS5y was disappointingly low at 47%. When analyzing the relatively poor outcome the main conclusions were that the second induction course in the AML 2004 protocol was not intensive enough and that idarubicin seemed to be less effective in patients with RUNX1/RUNX1T1 (t8;21) AML. Therefore, the group worked intensely to produce the new protocol which was finalized in December 2012. The first patients were treated in March 2013.



**Figure 2. Overview of previous NOPHO treatment protocols from 1984-2012. In AML88 all patients received intensively timed induction with early start of course 2. Since AML93 all protocols have adopted a response-guided timing of the second course, allowing good responding patients to recover peripheral blood values before starting course two.**

During 2019 the main work in the AML group has focused on

1. Supervising the efficiency, toxicity and logistic framework for the NOPHO-DBH AML2012 protocol. A major task here is to assure complete registration in all databases including the clinical and laboratory (MRD) databases.
2. Adapting the AML2012 protocol to the unavailability of DaunoXome. This included termination of the first randomization since mitoxantrone in course 1 showed superior efficacy to liposomal daunorubicin and substitution of liposomal with convention daunorubicin in the courses that are compared in the second randomization (FLADx and ADxE).
3. Evaluation of how NOPHO and the entire consortium can participate in two major international projects. The first is PedAL which aims at building a master trial for relapsed AML throughout the world and Data Commons which aims at creating a large set of data from pediatric AML de novo trials throughout the world.
4. Increasing the scientific collaboration with preclinical researchers and between NOPHO and the Belgian, Dutch, Hong Kong, Israeli and Spanish groups.
5. Participation in international collaborative research projects.
6. Continued analysis of data generated from previous NOPHO AML protocols.

## NOPHO-AML2004

The protocol opened in January 2004 and was officially closed in December 2013. Hong Kong continued to use the protocol as standard of care until September 2016 at which time AML2012 was opened. The 2004 protocol with flow charts and amendments can be accessed at [www.nopho.org](http://www.nopho.org). The outcome data are mature and much work has been done within the group also during 2019 to analyze and publish data on outcome, disease biology and toxicity.

### *Patient accrual*

NOPHO AML-2004 included a randomized comparison of the potential benefit of Gemtuzumab as post-consolidation therapy for standard risk AML. Late 2010, the randomized study had accrued the target number of 120 and therefore was closed for randomization but continued to be used as standard therapy without Gemtuzumab. Between 2004 and December 2013, when the protocol was officially closed, 323 protocol patients were registered from the Nordic countries and Hong Kong. The protocol was also used as standard therapy for childhood AML in Estonia and Latvia. During 2010-2013 both the Netherlands and Belgium conducted a study based on a modified version of NOPHO-AML2004 (identical treatment except for omission of the third course HAM and no stem cell transplant in first remission). This study recruited 112 patients and had an EFS of 53.5% and OS of 74.5% at three years.

### *Toxicity*

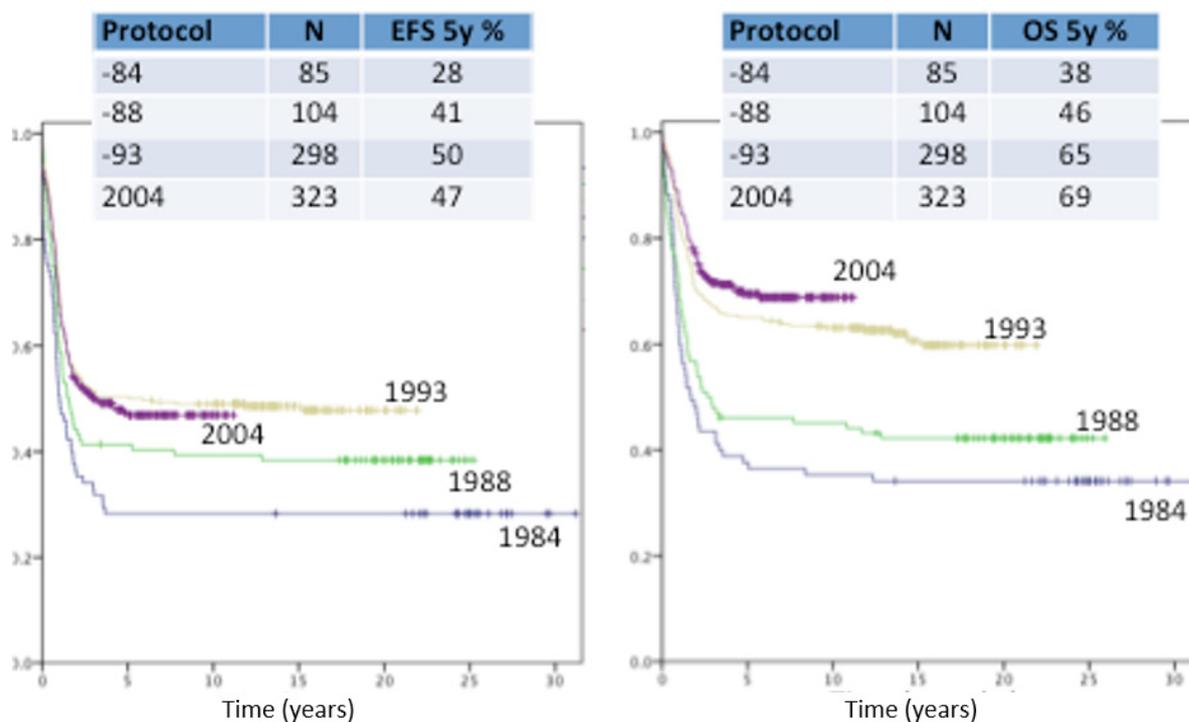
The toxic death rate in AML2004 was relatively low with 3.1% induction deaths and 2.8% deaths in CR1. The frequency of resistant disease was 5%, second malignancy 1.9% and 45% experienced relapse.

As the treatment blocks were very intensive, bone marrow aplasia was long and the rate of neutropenic fever very high after each block ranging from almost 100% after the first induction course to 74% after HA3. The acute and long-term cardiac toxicity has been very low but a NOPHO publication in 2016 from the NOPHO-AML88, -93 and -04 protocols showed that, although most patients had normal cardiac function and no cardiac symptoms, left ventricular function was significantly reduced compared to controls.

### *Outcome*

The overall results are stable with a five year EFS of 47% compared to 50% in NOPHO-AML93. The overall survival improved to 69% from 65% in AML93. Figure 3 shows event-free survival and overall survival compared to previous protocols.

When analyzing the relatively poor EFS it was found that patients with an intermediate response to AIET had a very high relapse rate as did patients with RUNX1/RUNX1T1 regardless of response. The AML group concluded that the second induction course – AM – was too weak in these patient subsets and in 2010 an amendment was made recommending FLADx as second course for patients with RUNX1/RUNX1T1 or an intermediate response to AIET. This seemed to markedly improve prognosis for these patients. Similar results were seen in the Dutch/Belgian AML01 protocol which used AIET as first course followed by FLA or FLADx in RUNX1/RUNX1T1 AML.



**Figure 3. Overall survival (right figure) and event-free survival (left figure) in NOPHO-AML2004 (purple), NOPHO-AML93 (beige), NOPHO-AML88 (green) and NOPHO-AML84 (blue).**

Analysis of the results with respect to subgroups is still on-going but it is evident that the changes in induction made in the 2004 protocol affected survival differently for several cytogenetic subgroups. An important conclusion is therefore that, even when using conventional chemotherapy for AML, patients in different subgroups may benefit from tailored therapy.

#### *Stem cell transplant in CR1*

In NOPHO-AML2004 high-risk patients were recommended SCT with any matched donor. Initially KMT2A aberration other than KMT2A/MLLT3 was a high risk criterion but interim analysis showed that compliance to the SCT recommendation in these patients was poor and consolidation with chemotherapy resulted in a satisfactory outcome. Thus, an amendment in 2009 removed KMT2A aberrations as a high-risk criterion.

At the same time accumulating evidence indicated that patients with FLT3-ITD mutations without concomitant NPM1 mutation had a very poor prognosis which might be improved by stem cell transplant. Therefore, FLT3-ITD mutations were added as a high risk criterion in an amendment in 2010. In total, only 17% of patients received SCT as consolidation in CR1 or following resistant disease. This is a low rate compared to most other childhood AML protocols.

#### *Gemtuzumab randomization*

The results from the randomized study including 120 patients were published 2012 (Hasle et. al. Blood). Gemtuzumab was well tolerated with no toxic deaths. Although GO treated patients had a tendency for later relapses, no effect was observed on either EFS or OS. Thus, the conclusion is that Gemtuzumab neither reduces the relapse rate nor increases survival when administered as post-consolidation therapy. In 2016 we could also show that patients relapsing after GO therapy did not have a significantly worse outcome than patients not receiving GO.

## NOPHO-DBH AML2012

The protocol was finalized in December 2012 and the AML2012 database was opened in March 2013. The study has EUDract number 2012-002934-35 and clinical trials identifier NCT01828489. After approval by the competent authorities and setting up of national GCP monitoring the protocol opened in Denmark and Sweden in March 2013, followed by Finland in April and Norway in June. The Netherlands started recruiting patients Jan 2014 and Belgium in May 2014. Hong Kong started recruiting in Sep 2016 and Israel started using the protocol in summer 2016 but randomizations are not planned to be performed. The larger centers in Spain started using the protocol in Nov 2017 following relevant approvals from competent authorities and in Oct 2019 17 centers were recruiting patients. Spain is also not randomizing patients. The MRD group and NOPHO registry continuously work very hard in order to ensure standardization of MRD flow analyses and curate the MRD database.

The study was expected to recruit 300 randomized patients within a time frame of six years but due to the problems with DaunoXome shortage randomizations were on hold for more than a year and resumed in 2019. Depending on approvals from national authorities the countries re-started randomizations at different timepoints during spring 2019.

The main assumptions, which to a large extent were deduced from experiences from AML2004, behind the major changes in standard treatment in AML2012 as compared to AML2004 are that:

- prognosis can be improved by using more intensive induction therapy
- detection of minimal residual disease  $\geq 0.1\%$  by flow cytometry, following the two induction courses identifies a subset of patients with a very poor prognosis when treated with chemotherapy alone
- stem cell transplant can reduce the negative prognostic impact of a poor response to induction therapy

The risk stratification in AML2012 is mainly based on treatment response which we assumed would be possible to evaluate by flow cytometry in the majority of patients. Since MRD flow is very difficult in AML the MRD group have set up strict logistics and a standardized protocol but continuously strive to improve by several quality control procedures. We can already state that this part of the protocol has been a success since around 90% of patients have an evaluable MRD investigation with a sensitivity of 0.1%. The MRD group meets twice each year and all laboratories partake in twinning so that each patients MRD data at critical protocol timepoints is reviewed by two centers. Furthermore, quality control rounds are performed twice yearly where all laboratories review the same data files. All MRD data files are accessible through a common server.

Children with  $\geq 15\%$  leukemic cells after the first course or  $\geq 0.1\%$  after the second course are classified as high risk (HR). In addition, patients with FLT3-ITD and no NPM1 mutation are HR patients regardless of response. This is slightly different from more recent AML trials in children that also incorporate more rare gene aberrations with putative poor outcome. However, whether these small subgroups really have poor prognosis with modern treatment and in what way prognosis interacts with treatment response is largely unknown. Given these uncertainties, the NOPHO AML group has decided to keep the risk stratification as originally planned in AML2012. There has been some treatment violations in the protocol where clinicians at times have given HR therapy including SCT to patients with these alleged poor risk genetic aberrations. Acknowledging that patient numbers are small, none of the individual study groups will be able to define the “true” prognostic impact of these aberrations and we will share our data in collaborative inter-group studies to extend our knowledge. However, the protocol group carefully supervise outcome in these patient groups and as of yet results seem satisfactory even in these genetic groups.

Children and adolescents in the HR group are recommended allogeneic stem cell transplant. All other patients are classified as standard risk and receive consolidation therapy with three blocks containing high dose cytarabine. An exception is standard risk patients with CFBB-MYH11 (inv(16)) who only receive two consolidation blocks.

AML2012 includes two randomized studies both aiming at improving treatment outcome. The efficacy and toxicity (in particular cardiac) of mitoxantrone and DaunoXome in the first induction course are compared. The second study compares the efficacy and toxicity of FLADx to the course ADxE. Both studies are evaluated by using MRD flow after the respective courses as primary endpoint.

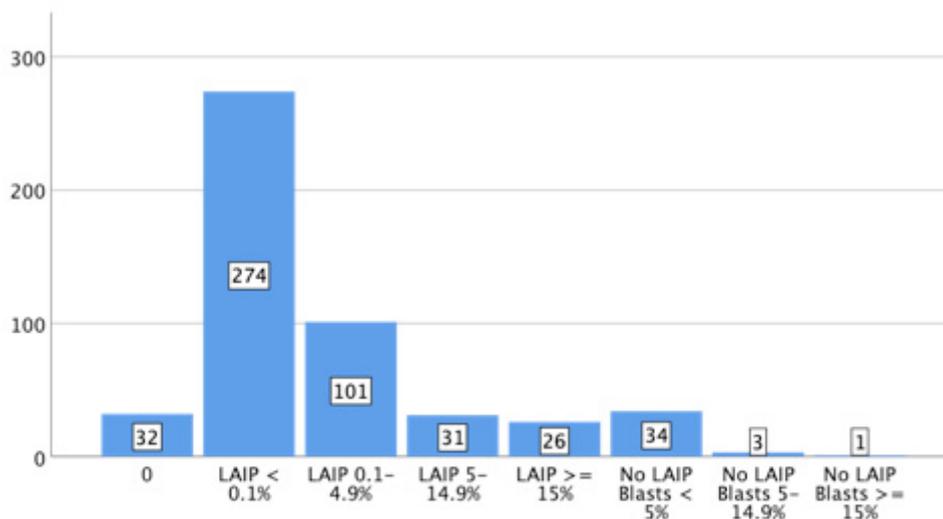
AML2012 has three other important research aims

1. to evaluate the prognostic significance of measurement of fusion gene transcript levels after the first and second course
2. to perform a comprehensive genetic characterization of the leukemic cells
3. to use fusion gene transcript determinations to detect molecular relapse of AML during follow-up.

As of Oct 2019, 504 patients have been treated on the protocol. A major setback has been that the company producing DaunoXome has had manufacturing problems and no drug has been available since 1 Nov 2017. Initially we believed that the drug would soon be available again. Therefore, randomizations were put on hold and an amendment was made giving guidelines how to treat patients until the drug became available again. This involved giving the standard arm to all as first course and giving a modified block (ADE - cytarabine, daunorubicin, etoposide) as second course while pausing all randomizations. However, in late 2018 it became clear that it was unlikely that the drug would be available again. At the same time, the annual interim analysis in Oct 2018 clearly showed that mitoxantrone treatment gave a significantly better EFS than DaunoXome in the 194 patients who were randomized prior to the shortage. Therefore, after consulting the DMC, the first randomization was officially closed in Dec 2018 and in order to be able to continue the 2nd randomization, a second amendment was made allowing for substitution of daunorubicin for DaunoXome in both treatment arms in course 2. This amendment was approved in all countries participating in randomizations during spring 2019.

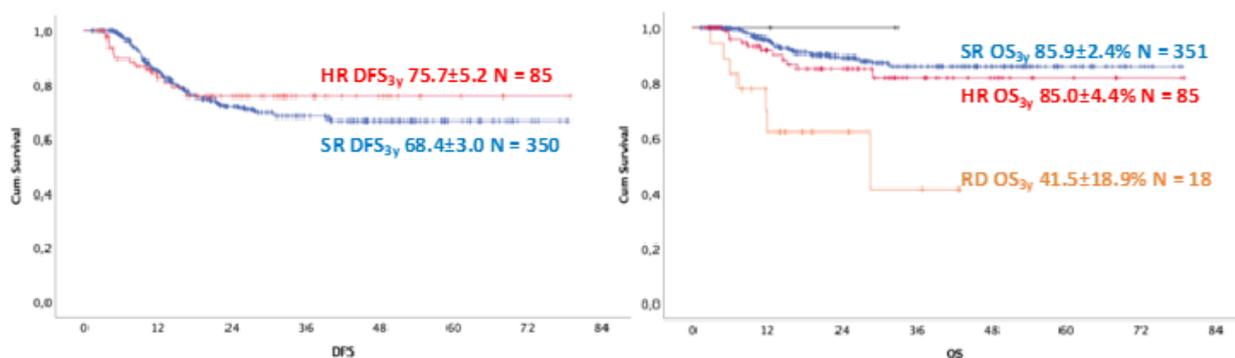
The data given below includes all 504 patients treated on AML2012 until October 2019. 224 have been enrolled in the second randomization and with an accrual of 50 patients annually it will take another 18 months before the study is completed. The age distribution is as expected with 23% below two years. More centers now use NGS panels for diagnostics so 87% of patients have AML specific genetic aberrations. At present, 10% have CFBF/MYH11 which in good responding patients stratifies to only two consolidation courses. A further 13% have RUNX1/RUNX1T1, 10% KMT2A/MLLT3, 14% other KMT2A rearrangements and 11% FLT3-ITD mutations without concomitant NPM1 mutation. The latter subgroup is stratified to high-risk therapy in AML2012.

Adherence to protocol diagnostic and MRD guidelines is excellent. Figure 4 shows that following course one, 92% have an informative MRD examination and that of these 60% have MRD < 0.1%.



**Figure 4. Response to course 1 in AML2012. 0 depicts patients lacking registration. LAIP - leukemia associated immunophenotype. 58% of evaluable patients have MRD < 0.1%.**

After course 1, over 85% reached CR which is a high fraction. Overall, AML2012 has very high anti-leukemic effect and following the two induction courses 93.3% reached complete remission. The frequency of resistant disease was 4.2%. Of all patients, 75% were stratified to the standard risk and 18% to the high risk group. As can be seen in figure 5, that shows Kaplan-Meier plots of three year disease-free and overall survival according to risk group, the risk stratification virtually eliminates the previous difference in outcome.

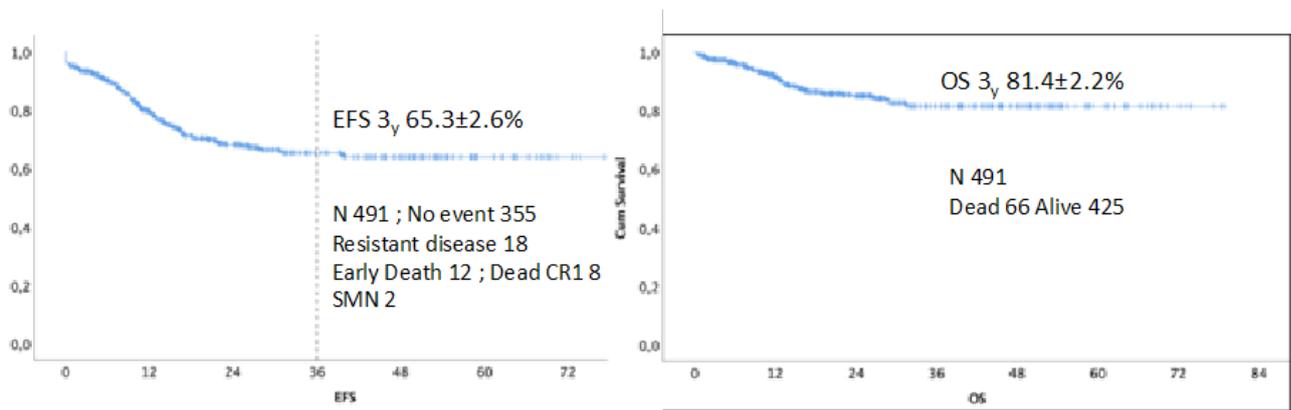


**Figure 5. Estimated disease-free survival (left) and overall survival (right) at three years are almost equal in both risk groups. Overall survival is shown also for patients with resistant disease (RD). Blue curve - standard risk, red - high risk, orange - resistant disease. The black curve at the top is two unclassifiable patients.**

The toxicity in AML2012 is, as expected, high but manageable. The frequency of induction death is 2.4% and the cumulative risk of treatment-related mortality is 4.8%. This includes deaths after SCT in HR patients.

The overall treatment-related mortality compares favorably to published data in AML. Registration of specific toxicities shows that after each of the first two courses around 45% of patients have documented blood-stream infections. After the first course, 15% have typhlitis and 20% require care at ICU. The frequency of specific toxicities declines with subsequent courses. However, induction therapy for AML is very intensive and many patients experience potentially life-threatening emergencies. Therefore, continued vigilance is necessary and supportive care must be of the highest standard in these patients. Data have been collected to further explore the characteristics, outcome and treatment of patients with typhlitis and/or with ICU admission. Toxicity registration still tends to be delayed for the consolidation courses which is not acceptable in a clinical trial conducted according to good clinical practice. However, this is continuously improving.

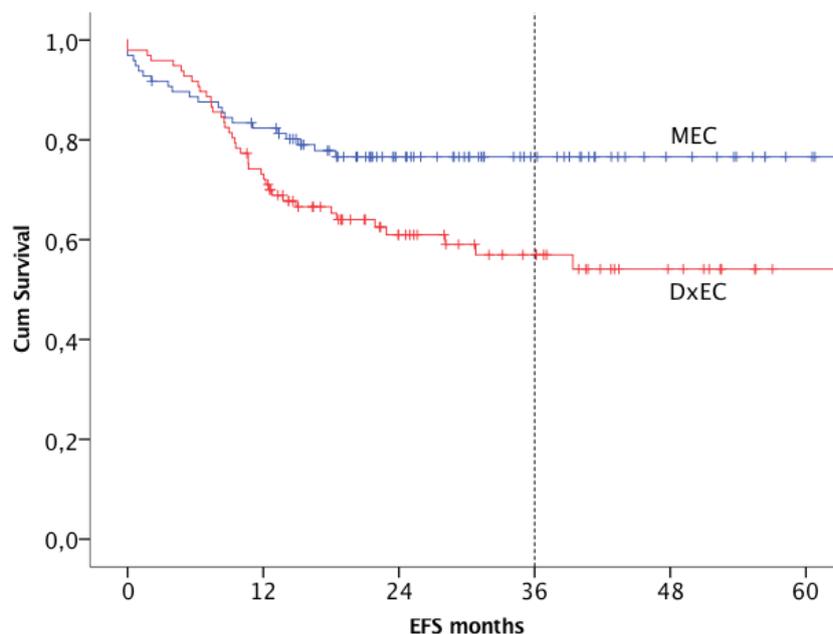
The follow-up is now sufficiently long to interpret event-free survival in the protocol. Over 90% of relapses in AML2012 occur within 24 months from diagnosis. Also, the data for overall survival are now beginning to have adequate follow-up although they must be viewed more cautiously. Fig 6 shows a EFS and OS at 3 years in the entire AML 2012 cohort. As can be seen EFS at 3 years is 65.3% and OS at 81.4%. The corresponding values for AML2004 were 49.8% and 73.7% respectively, both significantly lower.



**Figure 6. Kaplan-Meier estimates of event-free survival (left) and overall survival (right) for AML2012. Estimates are at three years.**

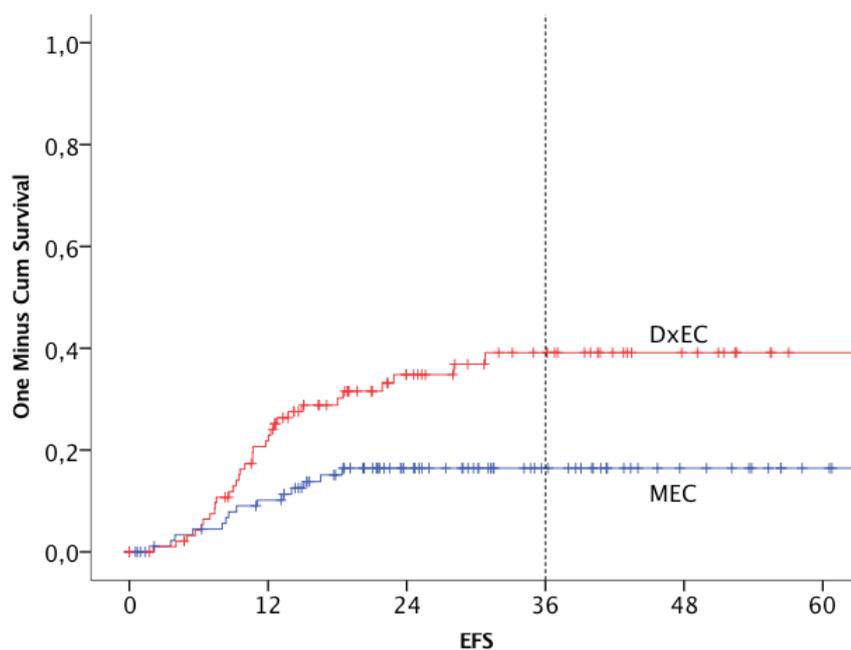
*Randomization between mitoxantrone and liposomal daunorubicin*

In Oct 2018, 194 patients had been included in the first randomization in AML2012. The last patient was included in Oct 2017. All patients had a minimum follow-up of almost 12 months with a median follow-up time of 30 months in patients without event. For the primary endpoint, the fraction of patients with MRD < 0.1% on day 22 after start of course 1, there was no difference between the treatment arms. However, as shown in figure 7 there was a large and statistically significant difference in event-free survival, estimated at three years, between the treatment arms. Thus, EFS<sub>3y</sub> was 76.6 ± 4.4% for the MEC arm and 57.0 ± 5.6% for the DxEC arm (Log rank P = 0.017).



**Figure 7. EFS in 194 patients randomized between MEC and DxEC in R1 and with outcome data. MEC (blue line) had an EFS<sub>3y</sub> of 76.6 ± 4.4% and DxEC had an EFS<sub>3y</sub> of 57.0 ± 5.6%. Log rank test is significant with P=0.017. The number at risk at three years was 27 for MEC and 23 for DxEC with a median observation time of 30 months in patients without events.**

In total, there were 39 events in the DxEC arm and 22 in the MEC which is a statistically significant difference ( $P=0.021$  Chi<sup>2</sup>). Further analysis of the events showed, as demonstrated in figure 8, that the difference in EFS3y was caused by a higher cumulative incidence of relapses (CIR3y) in the DxEC arm. CIR3y was  $17.4\pm 4.0\%$  for MEC and  $39.1\pm 5.7\%$  for DxEC ( $P=0.004$ ).



**Figure 8. CIR3y in 194 patients randomized between MEC and DxEC in R1 and with outcome data. MEC (blue line) had a CIR3y of  $17.4\pm 4.0\%$  and DxEC had an CIR3y of  $39.1\pm 5.7\%$ . Log rank is significant with  $P=0.004$ . Since the sum of the cumulative incidences of cause-specific events and EFS at three years was close to 100% no attempt to correct for competing events was made.**

Multivariate analysis confirmed that the difference in EFS was due to treatment and there was also a trend to increased survival in patients treated with mitoxantrone (OS3y MEC  $85.9\pm 3.9\%$  vs DxEC  $75.2\pm 5.0\%$ , Log rank test  $P=0.105$ ).

In conclusion, the NOPHO-DBH AML2012 protocol has improved outcome in children with AML significantly. The study has shown that mitoxantrone, when given as part of the first course, is more effective than DaunoXome. An independent data safety committee continues to review the results from the second randomization annually and supports continuation of this part of the study. We hope that this randomization will reach target accrual by end of 2020. The protocol logistics are well functioning and one of our main goals, namely to show that a very demanding flow cytometric MRD determination can be performed in a multi-center setting, has been accomplished. The treatment efficacy is much better than in previous NOPHO protocols.

## Intergroup studies and collaborations

### *PedAL study and Data Commons*

Several large cooperative initiatives are currently being discussed both within Europe and worldwide within the developed countries. The PedAL project is a US initiative for children with relapsed/refractory AML aiming to improve outcome through a comprehensive effort including development of biomarkers, preclinical research, informatics and clinical trials. The ultimate aim is to start a master trial for R/R AML including both a base therapy and trials of innovative therapies from several companies in one trial. This is not least important since the relapse trial with Essen as sponsor now has been terminated prematurely mainly due to the unavailability of DaunoXome. Until relapse trials are commenced, NOPHO recommendations for relapse treatment can be found at [www.nopho.org](http://www.nopho.org).

Closely related is the project Data Commons which aims at creating a common data dictionary with uniform definitions of variables so that study groups can send their data to a common database. The purpose of this database is to increase patient numbers in order to facilitate research regarding disease and treatment elements. The AML group recognizes that there are many difficulties including logistic and legal issues but consider it extremely important that NOPHO participates and helps drive these projects. This is one of the most important tasks for the NOPHO AML group the next years.

#### *Myeloid leukemia of Down syndrome*

The International DS study ML-DS 2006, which reduced the dose in each course and the total number of courses from 6 to 4 has now been published showing excellent results with an EFS at 5 years of 87% and a cumulative incidence of relapse/non-response of 6% in a cohort of 170 children. A new protocol is under development but the ML-DS 2006 is still used for treatment. The protocol is found at [www.nopho.org](http://www.nopho.org).

#### *AML-M3 APL*

In 2009, The NOPHO-AML group recommended joining the international ICC APL study 01 as a registration only study. The outcome in this protocol has been excellent with an OS of 94% at three years. A new protocol, ICC APL study 02, is now finalized and will be recommended as standard therapy in NOPHO. Individual countries will participate fully in the study according to decisions from the national groups. A major change is that patients with standard risk APL are treated only with retinoic acid and arsenic trioxide. The APL study group issued interim guidelines already in 2015 for treatment of patients with SR APL. In late 2019 the full ICC APL Study 02 was uploaded on the NOPHO web and recommended for all APL patients.

## Publications involving the NOPHO AML WG from 2018

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7. Skou AS, Olsen SØ, Nielsen LH, Glosli H, Jahnukainen K, Jarfelt M, Jónmundsson GK, Malmros J, Nysom K, Hasle H; Nordic Society of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology (NOPHO). *Hearing Status in Survivors of Childhood Acute Myeloid Leukemia Treated With Chemotherapy Only: A NOPHO-AML Study.* J Pediatr Hematol Oncol. 2019 Jan;41(1):e12-e17
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The Leukemia Genetics working group meet once a year. The meeting is divided in two two-day-meetings. All participants (besides the coordinator) are clinical geneticists working at the laboratories responsible for the genetic diagnostics in the Nordic countries. The coordinator, Ulrika Norén Nyström (pediatric oncologist) participate together with Prof. Bertil Johansson in both meetings. In March and April 2019, the meetings took place at Arlanda Airport in Sweden and the Swedish leukemia patients diagnosed in 2018 were reviewed during the first meeting and the rest of the Nordic and Baltic leukemia patients at the second meeting. All pediatric AML patients as well as both pediatric and adult ALL patients were evaluated. During the review meetings all diagnostic genetic results are reviewed, such as karyograms, targeted analyses for the mandatory aberrations (FISH- and/or PCR), but also, if they exist, results from SNP-arrays or other types of analyses done at diagnosis are discussed. A complete karyotype is decided, considering all diagnostic results we know of for each patient. The genetic group defining the patient in the treatment protocol is finally decided by the “worst counts” –principle. Representatives from the Baltic ALL genetic laboratories (Estonia and Lithuania) always participates in the meetings since 2018.

## Cytogenetic results for NOPHO patients diagnosed with ALL and AML in 2018

The genetic results at diagnosis in totally 10 infants, 244 children and 55 adults diagnosed with ALL, and 49 children with AML were reviewed at our meetings.

Genetic group - ALL (all ages)	n	%
t(9;22)	7	2,3
KMT2A-rearrangement	10	3,2
Low hypodiploidy (30-39)	4	1,3
Near hapodiploidy (23-29)	0	0
iAMP21	2	0,6
dic(9;20)	9	2,9
t(1;19)	7	2,3
t(12;21)	37	12
High hyperdiploidy (51-67)	79	25,6
Other clonal aberration	111	35,9
Normal	35	11,3
No result / unknown	8	2,6
<b>Total</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>100</b>

Genetic group AML	n	%
t(8;21)	4	8,2
inv (16)	2	4,1
t(9;11)	5	10,2
KMT2A other than t(9;11)	9	18,4
t(15;17)	0	0
FLT3-ITD pos / NPM1wt	2	4,1
Other clonal aberration	18	36,7
Normal	9	18,4
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100</b>

## The Cytogenetic application in the NOPHO registry

All genetic laboratories are now successfully reporting the diagnostic genetic results for ALL and AML in the cytogenetic registration application in the CCEG. A new application with modifications according to the ALLTogether protocol was discussed and planned at the meetings.

Umeå 18-03-2020

Ulrika Norén Nyström

## Publications involving the Leukemia Genetics wg from 2018

1. **Toft N, Birgens H, Abrahamsson J, Griškevičius L, Hallböök H, Heyman M, Klausen TW, Jónsson ÓG, Palk K, Pruunsild K, Quist-Paulsen P, Vaitkeviciene G, Vettenranta K, Åsberg A, Frandsen TL, Marquart HV, Madsen HO, Norén-Nyström U, Schmiegelow K.** *Results of NOPHO ALL2008 treatment for patients 1-45 years with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.* *Leukemia.* 2018 Mar;32(3):606-615.
2. **Borssén M, Nordlund J, Haider Z, Landfors M, Larsson P, Kanerva J, Schmiegelow K, Flaegstad T, Jónsson ÓG, Frost BM, Palle J, Forestier E, Heyman M, Hultdin M, Lönnerholm G, Degerman S.** *DNA methylation holds prognostic information in relapsed precursor B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia.* *Clin Epigenetics.* 2018 Mar 5;10:31.
3. **Oskarsson T, Söderhäll S, Arvidson J, Forestier E, Frandsen TL, Hellebostad M, Lähteenmäki P, Jónsson ÓG, Myrberg IH, Heyman M; Nordic Society of Paediatric Haematology and Oncology (NOPHO) ALL Relapse Working Group.** *Treatment-related mortality in relapsed childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia.* *Pediatr Blood Cancer.* 2018 Apr;65(4).
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7. **Nordlund J, Marincevic-Zuniga Y, Cavalier L, Raine A, Martin T, Lundmark A, Abrahamsson J, Norén-Nyström U, Lönnerholm G, Syvänen AC.** *Refined detection and phasing of structural aberrations in pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia by linked-read whole-genome sequencing.* *Sci Rep.* 2020 Feb 13;10(1):2512.

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Victoria Wennberg, Mats Heyman, Britt-Marie Frost, Henrik Hasle and Trond Flægstad at NOPHO biobank meeting 2018 in Aalborg, Denmark.

LLC (Leukemia and Lymphoma Committee) and NOPHO board decided in 2006 to build a Nordic biobank for the future collaborative NOPHO-studies of childhood ALL and AML.

Samples as part of a research project, Lönnerholm et al., have been collected since the beginning of the 90s. These samples have been included in NOPHO leukemia biobank.

The biobank is located in Uppsala Biobank, Uppsala Sweden. The samples are received and prepared at UCR (Uppsala Clinical Research Center).

During 2019 the bank was moved from Pathology department of the Academic Hospital, Uppsala to UCR.

An extensive work has been done and is ongoing to modernize banking procedure and the data storage. As well as updating and controlling data.

A new safe laboratory management software (FreezerPro®) is installed.



Åsa Forsberg and Ninni Pudas are ready to prepare cells from submitted patient material. Sofia Gustavsson arranges cell aliquots in the nitrogen tanks.

## ALLTogether

The Biobank will collect bone marrow and blood samples at diagnosis and relapse from the Nordic and Baltic countries, both for children and adults up to 45 years.

ALLTogether: samples from diagnosis, day 15, d 29 and d 71 (remission).

There will be an amendment to the protocol with sampling procedures, where spinal fluid also will be included.

## Constitutional DNA in addition to leukemic DNA

The Biobank want to sample constitutional DNA. For the new ALLTogether protocol, this should be included in the protocol and the informed consent.

It is suitable to take a remission blood sample 71 days after diagnosis.

## How to retrieve samples from the Biobank

The study proposal must be accepted as a NOPHO project by the scientific committee and the board, it will then be reviewed by the biobank board. The Biobank must be acknowledged in scientific papers if the samples are retrieved.

Exception: International studies on rare leukemias where a few samples are asked for.

## Finnish samples

We are planning to collect all the Finnish samples into Finnish Hematology Registry and Clinical Biobank (FHRB) in Helsinki. Turku & Oulu are still considering.

The sample collection, processing and storing are paid by the public sector (communities), so that is a big advantage. The samples will be marked with the NOPHO/A2G code, and can be retrieved on the basis of NOPHO/A2G approval and after acceptance by FHRB Scientific committee.

## A2G biobank group

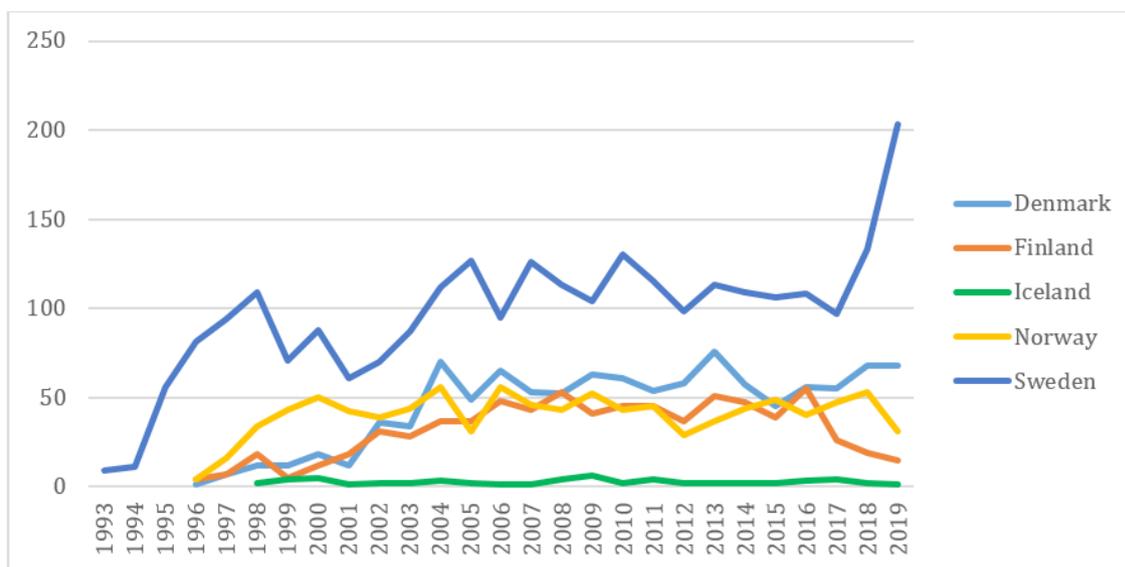
Member from NOPHO are Britt-Marie Frost and Victoria Wennberg.

**Current content in the biobank:** 5654 samples (years 1993-2019).

**Extracted DNA** in biobank is now available from more than 1800 samples and some of them even RNA.

**Yearly collected:** approx. 270 samples.

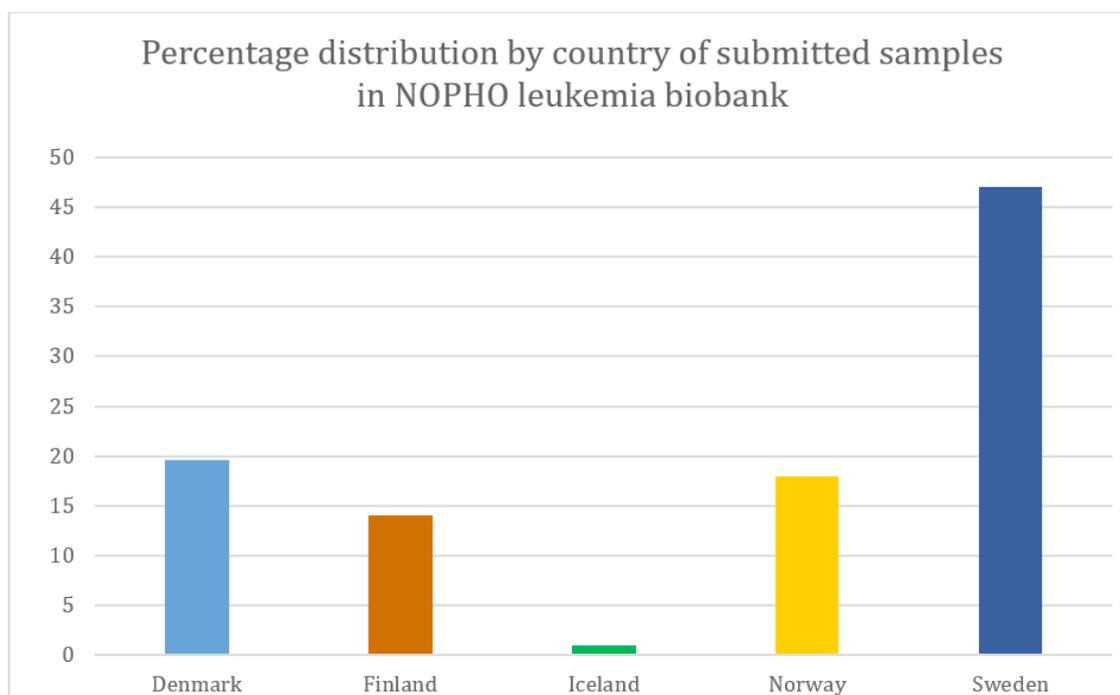
**No of samples used in research studies:** 1165 (cell pellets/DMSO frozen cells).



The samples before 2006 are imported samples from FMCA.

Since the start of NOPHO biobank, the number of submitted samples has remained stable until recent years, when there has been a decrease in samples from Finland and Norway.

The increase of number of samples from Sweden can be explained by referral tests and start of ALLTo-gether.



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## Organization

The group **Leukaemia & Lymphoma Biology Working Group (LL Biology WG)** includes ALL, AML and lymphoma researchers ranging from experimental researchers to pediatric oncologists.

The group is open for all NOPHO members and their coworkers with an interest in biology research on leukemia/lymphoma. Group members therefore shift over time. Also non-NOPHO members are welcome for an initial meeting before applying for NOPHO membership. The co-chairs Linda Fogelstrand and Olli Lohi have strong backgrounds in basic research and represent diagnostics (LF) and clinical (OL) expertise, and research focus primarily on ALL (OL) and AML (LF). OL is also a member of the ALLTogether scientific committee.

The LL Biology WG reports to the LLC, but many of the items are also discussed in the ALL-WG and AML-WG.

## Aims

The aims of the group are:

- Bring together clinicians, experimental researchers and diagnostic experts on childhood leukemia and lymphoma
- Increase knowledge of ongoing NOPHO biology-related research projects by regular updates
- Foster collaboration; increase shared projects, technology/expertise and funding applications
- Enhance and coordinate utilization of NOPHO biobank material and already obtained data including genomic data
- Plan novel research projects in conjunction with upcoming/ongoing protocols
- Avoid parallel studies
- Assist the NOPHO Scientific committee in evaluating project proposals and if requested aid in ranking research proposals for the NOPHO Biobank

## Meetings and results

The group gathers at biannual meetings which are held back-to-back with the ALL/ALLTogether WG meetings. The meetings have a common structure; one scientific theme with invited speaker, presentations of new project proposals (NOPHO projects and local projects), updates of ongoing NOPHO projects and update from the NOPHO biobank. In 2019, the WG held two meetings; in March and September, both at Arlanda, Stockholm, Sweden.

The theme for the meeting in March 2019 was studies connected to ALLTogether. The invited speaker Frank van Leeuwen from Utrecht, The Netherlands, presented on Xenograft banking of high risk ALL. Nikolas Herold from Stockholm presented his ongoing and planned studies on SAMHD1 in ALL and AML, and Arja Harila-Saari from Uppsala presented a project about novel biomarkers for neurotoxicity in ALL. The group discussed how to work on project proposals, in order to give the best output when new projects are presented before they are submitted to the NOPHO Scientific committee. Several proposed ALLTogether studies were presented by other members of the group, as were updates of ongoing NOPHO studies on ALL and AML.

The 2019 September meeting was centered on the protein machinery of the cells. The invited speaker Pekka Jaako from Gothenburg presented on 'Linking defective ribosome assembly to acute leukemia'. This was followed by a presentation from Olle Sangfelt, Stockholm on 'Targeting oncogenic SCF Ubiquitin Ligases for cancer therapy'. The ubiquitination theme was continued by Aljona Maljukova from Stockholm presenting on WEE1 kinase - a therapeutic target in MLL acute lymphoblastic leukemia through regulation of RUNX1. Andreas Lennartsson then continued with a presentation of his projects on MLL (KMT2A)-translocations in AML. Ongoing, new and updated projects on both ALL and AML were presented by members of the group.

The 2019 meetings were financed by planning grant from the Swedish Childhood Cancer Foundation (3 year grant 2017-2019). Around 32 and 24 participants attended the two different meetings. In addition to discussions on techniques, new and updated projects, the group has also been given regular updates from the Biobank WG. During the year, LL Biology WG has contributed a young laboratory-focused member to the Biobank WG.

### Future perspectives

Meetings will continue to be held biannually, in March and September 2020, the first at Arlanda Airport. Meetings will be financed by the planning grant from the Swedish Childhood Cancer Foundation, which has been extended to 2020. Travel expenses are covered by the institutions of the participants. The theme of the first meeting 2020 will be 'Novel targeted therapies in early phase clinical trials'. Invited speakers are Karsten Nysom, Copenhagen, and Torben Ek, Gothenburg.

Olli Lohi and Linda Fogelstrand  
March 2020

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## Infant Leukemia Working Group

<b>Coordinator</b>	Birgitte Lausen (DK)
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<b>Finland</b>	Olli Lohi
<b>Iceland</b>	Solveig Hafsteinsdottir
<b>Norway</b>	Anne Grete Bechensteen
<b>Sweden</b>	Anders Castor
	Ulrika Noren Nyström (cytogenetics)
	Mats Heyman (data center)
<b>Young NOPHO</b>	Sauli Palmu, Finland

The main activity of the NOPHO Infant Leukemia group is to take care of the international Interfant studies. The group had a meeting in January 2019. The annual meeting in the international Interfant group was held in May 2019 during the SIOPE meeting in Prag.

### Status of Interfant-06

The current protocol opened in 2006 with Rob Pieters as chair of the study. The randomization was closed pr. 1<sup>st</sup> Aug. 2016 when the target sample size was reached. The latest version of the Interfant-06-protocol (version 17) was released in April 2017 with changes in the Asparaginase treatment; only PEG-asparaginase should be used, doses should not be dose-adjusted according to age, and asparaginase drug- and antibody levels should be monitored.

The Interfant-06 Study Report released in May 2018 with the final report from the randomized study closed in Aug. 2016 showing no significant better survival in the experimental arm. Overall outcome is not different from the Interfant-99 protocol, apart from a slight increase in overall survival for the “original” groups.

Until a new Infant ALL protocol will be released it is still recommended to continue Interfant-06 version 17 and continue registration. For new infant ALL patients treated according to Interfant-06 protocol in Europe and Australia with KMT2A-mutations it is possible to participate in a Phase 1-2 study with Blinatumomab as monotherapy, a 4-week continuous infusion between induction and Phase 1B (The Nordic site is at Rigshospitalet in Copenhagen).

A manuscript describing the results from the Interfant-06 study is recently published in JCO.

## Publications on Infant ALL-studies, where NOPHO is involved

- **Pieters R, De Lorenzo P, Ancliffe P, Aversa LA, Brethon B, Biondi A, Campbell M, Escherich G, Ferster A, Gardner RA, Kotecha RS, Lausen B, Li CK, Locatelli F, Attarbaschi A, Peters C, Rubnitz JE, Silverman LB, Sary J, Szczepanski T, Vora A, Schrappe M, Valsecchi MG.** *Outcome of Infants Younger Than 1 Year with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Treated with the Interfant-06 Protocol: Results from an International Phase III Randomized Study.* J Clin Oncol. 2019 Sep 1;37(25):2246-2256. doi: 10.1200/JCO.19.00261. Epub 2019 Jul 8.
- **Albertsen BK, Harila-Saari A, Jahnukainen K, Lähteenmäki P, Riikonen P, Möttönen M, Lausen B.** *Asparaginase treatment in infants with acute lymphoblastic leukemia; pharmacokinetics and asparaginase hypersensitivity in Interfant-06.* Leuk Lymphoma. 2019 Jan 11:1-7.
- **Mann G, Attarbaschi A, Peters C, Schrappe M, Lorenzo P De, Hann I, Rossi G De, Felice M, Lausen B, LeBlanc T, Szczepanski T, Ferster A, Janka-Schaub G, Rubnitz J, Silverman L B, Sary J, Campbell M, Li C K, Suppiah R, Biondi A, Vora A, Valsecchi MG and Pieters R on behalf of the Interfant-99 Study Group.** *Improved outcome with hematopoietic stem cell transplantation in a poor prognostic subgroup of infants with mixed-lineage-leukemia (MLL)-rearranged acute lymphoblastic leukemia - Results from the Interfant-99 Study.* Blood 2010; 116 (15): 2644-2650
- **Van der Linden M, Valsecchi MG, De Lorenzo P, Möricke A, Janka G, Leblanc TM, Felice M, Biondi A, Campbell M, Hann I, Rubnitz JE, Sary J, Szczepanski T, Vora A, Ferster A, Hovi L, Silverman LB and Pieters R.** *Outcome of congenital acute lymphoblastic leukaemia treated on the Interfant-99 protocol.* Blood 2009; 114: 3764-3768.
- **Lönnerholm G, Valsecchi MG, De Lorenzo P, Schrappe M, Hovi L, Campbell M, Mann G, Janka-Schaub G, Li CK, Sary J, Hann I, Pieters R; Interfant-99 study group.** *Pharmacokinetics of high-dose methotrexate in infants treated for acute lymphoblastic leukemia.* Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2009 May; 52(5): 596-601.
- **Pieters R, Schrappe M, De Lorenzo P, Hann I, De Rossi G, Felice M, Hovi L, LeBlanc T, Szczepanski T, Ferster A, Janka G, Rubnitz J, Silverman L, Sary J, Campbell M, Li CK, Mann G, Suppiah R, Biondi A, Vora A, Valsecchi MG.** *A treatment protocol for infants younger than 1 year with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (Interfant-99): an observational study and a multicentre randomised trial.* Lancet 2007; 370: 240-250.

Copenhagen 20th March 2020

Birgitte Lausen

Chair of the NOPHO Infant Leukemia working group

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## Pharmacology Working Group

<b>Chair</b>	Goda Vaitkeviciene
<b>Denmark</b>	Birgitte Klug Albertsen Kjeld Schmiegelow Henrik Schröder
<b>Finland</b>	Jukka Kanerva Riitta Niinimäki Samppa Ryhänen
<b>Iceland</b>	Ólafur G. Jónsson
<b>Norway</b>	Bendik Lund Tove Anita Nystad Stein Bergan
<b>Lithuania</b>	Goda Vaitkeviciene
<b>Sweden</b>	Arja Harila-Saari Cecilia Langenskiöld Johan Malmros Nina Mogensen Jesper Helderup (MTX) Per Rydberg (Lab representative) Ranaa El-Edelbi (Chair of Pharmacists WG) Staffan Eksborg
<b>Young NOPHO</b>	Stine Nygaard Nielsen Rikke Hebo Larsen Cecilie Utke Rank (Adult haematologies)

NOPHO Pharmacology group met twice since the last report, on September 17, 2019 and February 18, 2020 in Stockholm.

Changes in the list of the members of the group:

1. Malin Lindqvist Appell, Linköping, Sweden – stepped down as a Swedish representative;
2. Stein Bergan, professor in clinical pharmacology in Oslo University – joined the group as the representative from Norway.

The main areas of interest in the Pharmacology group remained: PK/PD studies in ALL maintenance therapy, asparaginase and high dose methotrexate; association of body mass index with pharmacokinetics of antileukemic drugs (VCR, HD MTX) and subsequently with the outcome of the disease.

### Maintenance therapy

1. DNA-thioguanine nucleotide concentration as a predictor of relapse revealed reduction of the risk of relapse by 28% for every 100 fmol/ $\mu$ g DNA-TG increment in the MRD positive pediatric cohort of the NOPHO ALL2008 protocol (Nielsen et al., Lancet Oncology, 2017). Meta-analysis is performed to investigate the findings in a larger patient group (children and young adults) across different treatment protocols. Preliminary results from the analysis of 14,897 DNA-TG measurements from 1957 patients in six international cohorts show an increment of every 100 fmol/ $\mu$ g DNA-TG to remain as a significant risk factor for relapse (Linea Natalie Toksvang, PhD student, Copenhagen).
2. Pilot feasibility study of TEAM strategy (Thiopurine Enhanced ALL Maintenance therapy) – adding

6-thioguanine (2.5–12.5 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day) to concurrent conventional 6MP/MTX maintenance therapy was carried out in Copenhagen (led by Kjeld Schmiegelow and PhD student Rikke Hebo Larsen). Inclusion is completed: 33 patients included (five adults). Last patient completes therapy in March, 2020. Documented adverse events: four SAEs (one early CNS-relapse, one renewed symptoms of pancreatitis (hepatic and kidney affection), one osteonecrosis (adult) and one frontal sinusitis (adult)) and no SUSARs.

3. TEAM study as a part of the randomization in ALLTogether protocol (R3) is undergoing final preparational works. The aim is to initiate TEAM study before 01-10-2020. ALLTogether Master protocol TEAM study National PIs meeting is planned for May 26, Tuesday, in Copenhagen.
4. ALLTogether Master protocol maintenance therapy pharmacokinetics/-dynamics substudy. Since maintenance therapy is important for all risk groups and ages, 6MP/MTX metabolite concentrations will be monitored at three months intervals for all the ~8,000 patients anticipated to be included in A2G. The study is going to explore a detailed map and association of 6MP/MTX metabolite profiles to risk of toxicities and primary A2G events.
5. Recruitment to the Pilot study on Allopurinol use during ALL maintenance phase is continued (Jonas Abrahamsson/ Torben Ek). The study is investigating if adding of allopurinol in patients with wildtype TPMT leads to an increment in 6TG and reduction in 6MMP levels without increasing myelosuppression or other side effects. Opened in Sweden and Finland. So far 35 children included (out of 60 planned). No SUSARs or unexpected toxicity. Patients without central line are eligible as capillary sampling is possible. Three EDTA-tubes with capillary blood (BD 500 µL/tube) should be sent to BONKOLAB.

### Asparaginase studies

1. GRASPA study (NOR-GRASPALL 2016 Asparaginase encapsulated in erythrocytes (GRASPA®)) (Line S. Lynggaard, PhD student and Birgitte Klug Andersen). Open in all seven countries using the NOPHO ALL2008 and/or ALLTogether Pilot protocol. Aiming to include 50 patients, 45 included until March, 2020. One severe hypersensitivity reaction so far. No SUSARs.
2. Asparaginase TDM (Birgitte Klug Andersen). Analysis of the NOPHO ALL2008 data (by Sofie Gottschalk Højfeldt, PhD student) showed a significantly increased risk of relapse in the group of the patients with truncated asparaginase and confirmed the importance of asparaginase TDM.
3. Extended sampling during asparaginase treatment since 01/02/2017 for pharmacokinetic studies of PEG-asparaginase after i.m. administration in patients (children and adults) treated on the ALL2008 protocol (Birgitte Klug Albertsen).
4. The Association Between Asparaginase Enzyme Activity Levels and Toxicities in Childhood Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia in NOPHO ALL2008 (Line S. Lynggaard and Birgitte Klug Albertsen).
5. Pharmacokinetics and immunogenicity of the first dose of PEG-asparaginase. An ALLTogether pilot study (Birgitte Klug Albertsen).
6. Asparaginase started measuring for all patients treated according to the ALLTogether Pilot protocol. Registration in the RedCap system. Reported back from the lab if no asparaginase activity is detected. Plans for the scientific studies in ALLTogether cohort – to compare effect as well as side effects for i.m. vs i.v. asparaginase infusion; to continue asparaginase PK investigations.

### Methotrexate studies

1. The study proposal on severely delayed methotrexate with renal toxicity. Initiative by the PdL Toxicity working group in collaboration with I-BFM. NOPHO representative Torben Mikkelsen. According to the study plan, it is suggested that PI's from each country or international protocol would collect clinical and lab data on patients with severely delayed MTX elimination. Pharmacology group decided, as the data needed to be collected for the study are intensive, participation in the study should be discussed within the NOPHO national groups. Co-authorship of the national PIs will also need to be discussed.
2. As a result of the collaboration with Cincinnati group (Jesper Heldrup as a NOPHO representative) where the NOPHO HD MTX data were used for analysis, web-based tool as a quantitative model of the three-compartment high dose methotrexate PK had been developed. The tool is now freely accessible on the web: [mtxpk.org](http://mtxpk.org). The aim of the software is to guide glucarpidase dosing in patients with ALL.

3. It was decided by the Pharmacology group, agreed by Jesper Heldrup and by the national representatives, that HD MTX data collected so far from the NOPHO ALL-92, -2000 and -2008 protocols patients would be downloaded into the NOPHO database (e.g. NOPHO-CARE or other, to be decided). Access to the data will be provided to the PIs of the studies that will be approved by the NOPHO SC and national ECs.
4. BMI and the association with high dose MTX (HD-MTX) in NOPHO ALL2008-protocol (Christina Egnell, PhD student, supervised and in collaboration with Susanna Ranta, Arja Harila Saari, Mats Heyman, Staffan Eksborg, Jesper Heldrup and Torben Mikkelsen). The project is dedicated to explore the effect of BMI on outcome and toxicities as well as drug pharmacokinetics. Results from the study of -92, -2000 and -2008 data revealed obesity at diagnosis of ALL to be an independent prognostic risk factor in older children aged 10 to 17 years (Egnell C, Ranta S et al, manuscript in preparation). Preliminary data by Jesper Heldrup from NOPHO ALL92, 2000 and 2008 showed no difference in MTX elimination or nephrotoxicity in obese patients. Hypothesis that BMI is associated with the altered PK through different kinds of HD-MTX associated toxicities (neutropenic fever, mucositis, liver toxicity etc.) and subsequent longer intervals between treatments is going to be checked in detailed evaluation of 44 obese patients in NOPHO ALL2008 protocol.

### Collaboration with the Pharmacists group (Chair Ranaa El Edelbi)

The group continues working on the study on Improving handling for oral anticancer drugs used in hospital and home setting (part of the Ranaa El Edelbi PhD study). A project with the aim to prepare the handling procedures for the medical staff as well as for the parents on preparation and delivery of oral cytotoxic drugs, including reconstitution, protective personal equipment and handling patient waste (e.g. vomiting, diapers) and drug spill. Written recommendations and video material is under preparation.

Next meeting: Tuesday September 15, 2020 in Stockholm.

Goda Vaitkevičienė  
Chair of the NOPHO Pharmacology WG  
March 14, 2020

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## **Other Disease Working Groups**

## Histiocytosis Working Group

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### Langerhans cell histiocytosis (LCH)

#### LCH-IV

For LCH-IV, each country has separate national coordinator(s). Finland is planning to enter LCH-IV.

Denmark: Karsten Nysom (karsten.nysom@regionh.dk) and Bodil Als-Nielsen (bodil.elise.thorhauge.als-nielsen@regionh.dk)

Sweden: Jan-Inge Henter (jan-inge.henter@ki.se), Désirée Gavhed (desiree.gavhed@ki.se). and applied for: Tatiana Greenwood (tatiana.greenwood@ki.se)

Norway: Monica Munthe-Kaas (uxmomu@ous-hf.no) and Bem Zeller (bzeller@ous-hf.no)

LCH-IV includes altogether seven interconnected studies “strata” (*in italics: enrolled Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 2019*):

STRATUM I:	First-Line Treatment ( <i>Group 1, n = 256; Group 2, n = 337</i> )
STRATUM II:	Second Line Treatment for non-risk LCH ( <i>n = 77</i> )
STRATUM III:	Salvage Treatment for Risk LCH ( <i>n = 15, all &lt;2 years</i> )
STRATUM IV:	Stem Cell Transplantation for Risk LCH (HSCT) ( <i>n = 0</i> )
STRATUM V:	Monitoring and Treatment of Isolated Tumorous and ND CNS-LCH ( <i>n = 11</i> )
STRATUM VI:	Natural History and Management of “Other” SS-LCH ( <i>n = 429</i> )
STRATUM VII:	Long-Term Follow-up ( <i>n = x, including dabrafenib=17 and vemurafenib=43 pts</i> ).

Recruitment is slower than expected. For Stratum I, Group 1 and 2, it will take another 4-5 years and 2-3 years, respectively, to reach the final sample size of 400 pat each, For Stratum II, about 3-4 more years will be needed (as a randomized phase II study instead of phase III, and with lower significance level, now at 20%). For Stratum III, it is considered probable to reach to planned 30 patients.

**REMINDER:Amendment in Stratum II, Initial course:“Add PRED to allVCR/ARA-C pulses until week 24”.**

### *Some studies on LCH and MAPK inhibitors in the literature*

Treatment for patients with BRAF V600 inhibitors such as with vemurafenib has been reported to have remarkable efficacy in adult patients with BRAF V600-mutant Erdheim-Chester Disease (ECD) (n=22) and LCH (n=4); Diamond EL, et al. *JAMA Oncol* 2018;4:384-388. Later the same remarkable efficacy was also observed in 54 children with refractory MS-LCH; Donadieu J, et al *J Clin Oncol* 2019;37:2857-2865.

Interestingly, it has also been reported that treatment with the MEK inhibitor cobimetinib was efficacious regardless of genotype, and responses were observed in patients (ECD =12, LCH =2, other histiocytoses =4) with ARAF, BRAF, RAF1, NRAS, KRAS, MEK1 (also known as MAP2K1) and MEK2 (also known as MAP2K2) mutations (Diamond EL, et al. *Nature* 2019;567:521-524).

The role of BRAF/MAPK inhibition in the treatment of LCH has also been reviewed in

- Héritier S, et al. BRAF Mutation Correlates With High-Risk Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis and Increased Resistance to First-Line Therapy. *J Clin Oncol.* 2016; 34: 3023-30
- Kolenová A, et al. Targeted inhibition of the MAPK pathway: emerging salvage option for progressive life-threatening multisystem LCH. *Blood Adv.* 2017; 1: 352-56
- Allen C, et al. Langerhans-Cell Histiocytosis. *N Engl J Med* 2018; 379: 856-68.
- Hogstad B, et al. RAF/MEK/extracellular signal-related kinase pathway suppresses dendritic cell migration and traps dendritic cells in Langerhans cell histiocytosis lesions. *J Exp Med.* 2018;215:319-36

Notably, although it appears as if BRAF and MEK inhibitors successfully can stabilize the clinical condition also of patients with severe LCH, they do not seem to cure the patients and it is as yet unknown when and how to stop these inhibitor treatments. See: Schwentner R, et al. Longitudinal assessment of peripheral blood BRAFV600E levels in patients with Langerhans cell histiocytosis. *Pediatr Res.* 2019 May;85(6):856-864.

### *From the Histiocyte Society Meeting 2018 on LCH*

Donadieu J, et al (France): 53 children with refractory LCH and BRAFV600E mutation treated with Vemurafenib. Active Refractory Disease (ARD) (n=47) included 38 patients with and 9 without Risk Organ (RO), all refractory to at least one induction of vinblastine and steroid. Response was complete in 29 and partial in 18. No grade 3 or 4 side effect was observed during first 8 weeks. One death was observed in a patient who had a partial response and later received clofarabine. In symptomatic neurodegenerative CNS (ND) (n=6), shortly after onset two patients withdrew therapy for grade 3 side effect (severe weakness in one, skin rash in one). When provided for long term (n=4) a limited subjective improvement was observed but overall stable in 3 and improved in one, i.e. a limited impact on CNS ND LCH. The safety profile appears good with mainly grade 1 and 2 side effects.

Tardieu M, et al (France): 53 pediatric LCH patients treated since 2013 with vemurafenib for refractory BRAF (V600E) mutated LCH. Data available for 38 patients. 30/38 had skin reactions (rash, photosensitivity, xerosis, panniculitis), but no grade 4/5. 10% had dose reductions. There were no (pre)cancerous skin lesions.

Yang Y, et al (China): Dabrafenib in 21 patients with BRAFV600E+. There were 13 responses, 6 stable disease and 2 failures.

Eckstein O, et al (US): Altogether 18 patients treated with MAPK-inhibitor; ten patients had LCH-neurodegenerative disease (LCH-ND) diagnosed clinically and/or by imaging, while the remaining 8 patients had systemic disease with no LCH-ND. Two patients (11%) achieved a CR, 6 patients achieved a PR (33%), 3 patients only achieved stable disease (17%), and 7 patients experienced progression (38%). Of patients with LCH-ND, all 10 achieved at least PR (40%) or SD (60%), but 4 of these patients eventually progressed. Overall survival was 94% with a median follow-up of 20 months (range 1-42 months). Four of the 18 patients (22%) had a Grade 3-4 toxicity; 2 patients (11%) required dose reduction.

Marshall K, et al (UK): Started with MAPK inhibitors in 2015 and have a total of 14 patients (11 refractory MS, 2 ND-CNS, 1 missing info); 2 vemurafenib, 8 dabrafenib, 3 dabrafenib + trametinib. Median treatment 21 months. No patient discontinued treatment due to lack of response or toxicity. 2 children await response assessment. Treatment withdrawal was attempted in only 1 patient, after 6 and again after 22 months of vemurafenib, leading to disease reactivation within days on both occasions; thus it is unclear when treatment can be withdrawn.

Kumar A, et al (US): 5 children with MS RO+ LCH, BRAFV600E+. Four patients with HLH-2004 criteria (i.e. LCH-HLH). All in remission with dabrafenib.

Santa-Maria V, et al (Spain): Reported on 4 pat with neurodegenerative CNS-LCH (2018). Patients with radiological changes and neurological/neurophysiological abnormalities or neurocognitive dysfunction were treated with MAPK inhibitors (Dabrafenib or Trametinib). ND-LCH MRI changes were present in 4/128 (3%) patients. After 6 mo of treatment, 3/4 pat showed radiological improvement and 2/4 neurocognitive amelioration. After 6 months of treatment, 3/4 patients showed radiological improvement and 2/4 neurocognitive amelioration. The pat with the longest history of ND-LCH (8.5 yrs) had no evidence of clinico-radiological response.

Svojgr K, et al (Czech Republic): BMT and targeted therapy did not eradicate refractory LCH clone measured by BRAF positivity in peripheral blood.

#### *From the Histiocyte Society Meeting 2019 on LCH*

NACHO (North American Consortium for Histiocytosis) is preparing a Phase II Study of Cobimetinib in refractory LCH, ND-LCH and other histiocytic disorders (NACHO-COBI); 12 cycles (3 w therapy, 1 w off) 12 mo and then observation 12 mo.

Stephan Ladisch et al from the LCH-III study group reported that 12/43 (28%) deaths occurred the first 6 weeks of therapy, all <2-years old (and 21% during weeks 7–13). During the first 6 weeks all patients received weekly vinblastine + daily prednisolone and randomized to also receive 2-weekly methotrexate or not. All 12 had multisystem disease, and 11/12 RO+. The median therapy duration at death 18 days (7–39). The recorded causes of death were: disease progression and infection (4), disease progression (3), infection (2), disease related respiratory failure (1), thrombocytopenia and pulmonary haemorrhage (1), data unavailable (1). It was concluded that the response assessment at 6 weeks was too late, and an early change to inhibitors is suggested.

Ulrike Pötschger and LCH study group reported retrospective analyses on the impact of GI-involvement at diagnosis on overall survival in LCH patients and concluded that GI-involvement is associated with poorer survival and an independent prognostic risk factor (HR:2.5).

Lei Cui et al from Beijing reported on 102 LCH patients with successfully determined BRAF status. Cell-free (cf)BRAF-V600E at diagnosis was detected positive in 68% (55/81) of BRAF-V600E-mutated LCH patients. cfBRAFV600E was identified in 92% (23/25) of patients with MS RO+ LCH, 83% (19/23) of patients with MS RO- LCH, and 39% (13/33) of patients with SS LCH (P<0.001). The 6-week response rate was much lower in children with positive cfBRAF-V600E (35% vs 65%, P = 0.032). 2-year progression-free survival (PFS) was much lower in the cfBRAF-V600E positive group (35% ± 7.3% and 92% ± 5.2%, respectively; P < 0.001). Moreover, PFS was clearly worse in cfBRAF-V600E positive SS LCH patients (45% ± 20% vs. 100%, P = 0.003). cfBRAF-V600E positivity at week 6, week 12, week 52 of the first-line therapy or course 8 in the second-line therapy was also closely correlated to worse outcome of LCH patients.

Li Na et al from Beijing and Shanxi hospitals reported on 58 children evaluated for osteopontin (OPN) in the CSF and found that OPN was higher in patients with MS, RO+ and CNS risk lesions, and that it correlated with pituitary involvement.

Kenichi Sakamoto et al, for Japanese LCH study group reported on the incidence of ND-LCH and risk factors for development of ND-LCH based on 317 children (111 MFB, 196 MS) included in the JSLG 96/02 protocols 1996-2009, which is ARA-C based chemotherapy. The incidence of CNS-related permanent consequences was 9% in MFB and 28% in MS patients. The 10-year cumulative incidence of DI was 16% and of ND 4%. They had 15 pat with clinical ND-LCH. DI was a risk factor for ND-LCH development (HR: 9.3). No patient developed clinical ND-LCH prior to DI,

## Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH)

**HLH-94:** The Histiocyte Society protocol HLH-94 was based on the combination of chemotherapy and immunotherapy (VP-16, steroids and cyclosporin A), followed by HSCT. This protocol was succeeded by the HLH-2004 protocol. The final HLH-94 study summary was published in 2011 (*Trottestam H, et al. Blood 2011;118:4577-84*).

**HLH-2004:** This study was opened in January 2004 and closed for recruitment Dec 31, 2011. The main difference compared to the HLH-94 protocol was that cyclosporin A (CSA) was initiated upfront instead of at week 9. Five-year survival in children with (n = 168) and without (n = 201) family history/genetically verified FHL was 59% and 64%, respectively. The results are presented in *Bergsten E, et al. Blood 2017;130:2728-2738*.

**NOTE: The Histiocyte Society recommends the HLH-94 protocol as standard of care**, since it could not be shown that HLH-2004 was superior to HLH-94. Many nevertheless use CSA as a bridge to HSCT in primary HLH, starting not earlier than week 3, when dexamethasone is tapered (see guidelines below). The HLH-2004 diagnostic criteria (5/8 criteria) are still recommended.

There is no new international treatment study on HLH planned. Currently minor studies are performed on alemtuzumab in primary HLH and ruxolitinib (a Janus kinase (JAK) 1/2 inhibitor) in both primary and secondary HLH. Studies on anakinra in MAS-HLH (macrophage activation syndrome) is ongoing. Emapalumab (anti-IFN-gamma) has been approved by the FDA in the US, and application for approval in the EU has been submitted.

**Recommendations on the use of the HLH-94 protocol:** Guidelines on the use of the HLH-94 protocol in clinical practice has been prepared by the HLH Steering Committee of the Histiocyte Society (*Ehl S, et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract 2018; 6: 1508-1517*).

**Recommendations for management of HLH in adults:** Guidelines have been published (*La Rosée P, et al. Blood. 2019 Jun 6;133(23):2465-2477*).

**Recommendations for management of HLH at the ICU:** Guidelines have been submitted.

**HLH Registry:** In preparing for a new international HLH study an HLH Registry is open for (1) all patients with primary immunodeficiencies predisposing to HLH, and (2) patients with active HLH that is not secondary to underlying conditions such as rheumatological disease, malignancy, metabolic disease or Leishmania infection. The study center is in Germany, and a nation-wide ethical application has been approved in Sweden. The study objectives include to:

- Collect data relevant for the assessment of feasibility and design of future interventional studies on the treatment of HLH, and the international patient recruitment potential for a future trial
- Collect data on current standard of care, time to transplant, and outcome after 1 year

In case of clinical questions you are welcome to contact [Jan-Inge.Henter@ki.se](mailto:Jan-Inge.Henter@ki.se) or [Tatiana.Greenwood@ki.se](mailto:Tatiana.Greenwood@ki.se).

For diagnostic pre-treatment lymphocyte function (cytotoxicity) analyses, contact [Yenan.Bryceson@ki.se](mailto:Yenan.Bryceson@ki.se) at Karolinska Institutet. For sequencing of HLH-casing genes, you can contact [BiancaTesi@ki.se](mailto:BiancaTesi@ki.se) at the clinical genetic laboratory at the Karolinska University Hospital.

# Thrombosis and Haemostasis Working Group

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<b>Finland</b>	Pasi Huttunen
<b>Iceland</b>	Olafur Gislí Jonsson
<b>Norway</b>	Ellen Ruud
<b>Lithuania</b>	Sonata Saulyte Trakymiene
<b>Sweden</b>	Susanna Ranta, Ulf Tedgård, Tony Frisk
<b>Young NOPHO</b>	Nadine Gretenkort Andersson (SE), Kirsten Jarvis (NO), Cecilie Utke Rank (DK), and Satu Långström (FI)

## Meetings

Last meeting was held in Copenhagen 27<sup>st</sup> August 2019. The next meeting is planned on 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2020 in Trondheim.

## Members

No changes.

## Benign Haematology Committee

Benign Haematology Committee has been established. The main goal of the Committee is to represent benign Haematology in NOPHO and to support a collaboration between NOPHO WGs for Benign Haematology. Ulf Tedgård is the representative from Thrombosis and Haemostasis WG.

**Registration of thromboses.** WG (by Satu Långström) applies to NOPHO Scientific Committee on Registration of Thromboembolism (TE) in ALLTogether protocol in ALL patients (1-45 years old) in Nordic and Baltic countries.

## Other planned studies

1. Long-term follow-up after DVT and PE in children and adults with ALL (Merete Eybye Dam)
  - Focus: Post-thrombotic syndrome (PTS) and QoL.
  - Inclusion: ALL patients aged 1-45 years, diagnosed 2008- 2016, treated according to the NOPHO ALL2008 protocol, and diagnosed with DVT and/or PE (N=177).
  - Approved by the NOPHO ALL WG and TE WG. National authorities will be applied.
2. Re-exposure with asparaginase after cerebral sinovenous thrombosis (CSVT) (Mette Tiedemann Skipper)
  - The primary aim is to explore the safety of re-exposure with asparaginase after clinical stabilization/normalization of symptoms after CSVT.
  - Inclusion: ALL patients aged 1-45 years, diagnosed 2008- 2017, treated according to the NOPHO ALL2008 protocol, and diagnosed with CSVT.
  - Approved by the NOPHO ALL WG; Events WG and TE WG.
3. Status of CSVT follow-up study – neurocognitive testing of neurotoxicity (Susanna Ranta and

Stavroula Anastasopoulou) ALL patients diagnosed 2008-2016 and treated according to the NOPHO ALL2008.

4. Cochrane systematic review on thromboprophylaxis in adult ALL patients treated with asparaginase. Protocol published (cochranelibrary.com). Cecilie Utke Rank: Review in progress.
5. Retrospective multicenter observational study of asymptomatic right atrial TE in children with ALL treated according NOPHO ALL2008 protocol (Kirsten Jarvis).
6. TE in Ponte di Legno (PdL)/ I-BFM. TE is the toxicity of interest in PdL. The data form is now on pilot study by PdL toxicity group.

#### Publications since March 2019

**Jarvis KB, LeBlanc M, Tulstrup M, Nielsen RL, Albertsen BK, Gupta R, Huttunen P, Jónsson ÓG, Rank CU, Ranta S, Ruud E, Saks K, Trakymiene SS, Tuckuviene R, Schmiegelow K.** *Candidate single nucleotide polymorphisms and thromboembolism in acute lymphoblastic leukemia - A NOPHO ALL2008 study.* Thromb Res. 2019 Dec;184:92-98.

Aalborg, March 2020

Ruta Tuckuviene

Chair of the NOPHO Thrombosis and Haemostasis Working Group

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## Late Effect Working Group

<b>Chair</b>	Riitta Niinimäki
<b>Denmark</b>	Catherine Rechnitzer Katja Majlund Harder
<b>Finland</b>	Mervi Taskinen Kirsi Jahnukainen
<b>Iceland</b>	Halldora Thorarinsdottir Solveig Hafsteindottir
<b>Norway</b>	Inga Maria Johannsdottir Einar Stensvold
<b>Sweden</b>	Cecilia Petersen Marianne Jarfelt
<b>NOPHO leukaemia registry</b>	Mats Heyman (SE)
<b>Young NOPHO</b>	Gitte Sorensen (DK) Jan Bernd Stukenborg (SE) Liisa Järvelä (FI) Pauliina Utriainen (FI) Simon Kranz (NO) Thorgerdur Gudmundsdottir (IC)

The group had two meetings in 2019:

One day meeting, Helsinki 15<sup>th</sup> of January.

Meeting during the NOPHO Annual meeting, Aalborg 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2019.

The main focus areas of the group are late effects related to the cancer treatment and long-term follow-up clinics in NOPHO countries.

### Long-term follow-up (LTFU) clinics in NOPHO countries

The goal of the LE WG is that the collaboration between LTFU clinics in NOPHO countries will increase both clinically and scientifically.

### Pancare activities

Pancare had 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting in Opatija, Croatia, April 24-26 and 24<sup>th</sup> meeting in Basel, Switzerland, September 11-13.

### Collaboration with NOBOS

Collaboration with NOBOS is ongoing and the LE WG meetings are joint meetings.

### Ongoing late effects studies in Nordic countries (presented in the meetings)

- Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Survivor Trial and Rehabilitation (ALL-STAR) study in Denmark (Liv Andrés-Jensen)
- HALLON study, late effects in ALL2008 HR chemo patients (Arja Harila-Saari/Päivi Lähteenmäki)
- Late effects in survivors of neuroblastoma in the Nordic countries – a study within ALiCCS (Filippa Norsker)
- NORDFERTIL (Jan Bernd Stukenborg)
- BRAIN SAVE: Late effects in brain tumor patients treated with proton versus photon therapy (Arja Harila-Saari)
- Late effects after treatment for childhood brain tumor (Anne Sophie Fischer)
- Gut microbiota during and after cancer treatment in childhood: Associations with cardiometabolic health and immunological recovery (Liisa Järvelä)
- Late effects in survivors of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia (Gitte Sorensen)

**Next late effect meeting will be 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2021 in Helsinki.**

Oulu, March, 2020

Riitta Niinimäki  
Chair of the NOPHO Late Effect working group

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## Pharmacists Working Group

<b>Sweden</b>	Ranaa Akkawi El Edelbi (Chair) Magnus Dahlander Hilanah Shabo Tamara Al-Ani Sofia Jönsson Madeleine Persson Paula Hansson
<b>Norway</b>	Margrete Einen Gunn-Therese Lund Sørland Siri Utby Maria Larsen Kajsa Rinstad
<b>Lithuania</b>	Goda Vaitkeviciene Monika Grigentyte Laimis Dambrauskas
<b>Finland</b>	Sanna Veijalainen Ulla Taipale Taija Heikkinen
<b>Denmark</b>	Sigrid Otnes Søren Bisgaard Johansen Kathrine Bruun Svan Louise Larsen Maria Kaaberbøl Thorberg

### Meeting

The Pharmacists Working Group has had two physical meetings, the 10th of April in Gothenburg and the 5th of December 2019 in Stockholm. We have also had monthly meetings via Lync/Skype.

### Projects

The focus of the working group is the development of an educational session for the extravasation guideline (online education).

Status: still ongoing.

We are also working with a second project, the oral chemotherapy project where we want to collect and share information concerning reconstitution and handling of oral cytotoxic agents in the Scandinavian countries.

Status: We are now preparing patient specific leaflets and video films concerning the handling of cytotoxic drugs in home setting.

- A consensus document was achieved by the NOPHO pharmacist group on how oral anticancer drugs should be handled at home.
- Preparing training guidelines for nurses to train the caregivers in the handling procedures of oral anticancer drugs in home setting.
- Educational material is prepared for the nurses on how oral anticancer drugs should be handled at home.

Ranaa and Magnus are also helping the NOPHO pharmacology group to set an education in pharmacology and pharmacokinetics for both pharmacists and doctors.

Ranaa Akkawi El Edelbi  
Chair of the NOPHO Pharmacists WG  
Stockholm, March 4, 2020

## NOPHO/NOBOS Working Group on Ethics (WGE)

<b>Chair</b>	Lisa Törnudd, elected 2018
<b>Secretary</b>	Cecilia Bartholdson, elected 2018
<b>Denmark</b>	Trine Brøner Gitte Petersen Astrid Sehested Pernille Wendtland Edslev
<b>Finland</b>	Marika Grönroos Kristian Juusola Johanna Viitanen
<b>Iceland</b>	Sigrún Þóroddsdóttir
<b>Norway</b>	Grete Ringheim Anne Gro Wesenberg Rognlien
<b>Sweden</b>	Johan Arvidson Anders Castor Sara Karlsson Frans Nilsson Pernilla Pergert Jennie Stigmar

The intention of the NOPHO/NOBOS Working Group on Ethics (WGE) is to support the knowledge in ethics and promote clinical ethics support (CES) in paediatric oncology as well as identifying and raising ethical questions within the field.

### Organization

The group has had one 2-day meeting, one 3-day meeting and has delivered the first part of the second two-part ethics-training program.

### Meetings of the WGE during 2019

17-19 Mar 2019, Stockholm, Sweden. The theme of the meeting was genetics and the ethics of screening for cancer predisposing conditions.

17-20 Nov 2019, Turku, Finland. The theme of the meeting was human dignity and teaching ethics in the clinical setting.

In addition, working meetings for the course organizers were held.

### Completed course arranged by the WGE

1-4 Oct 2019, Sollentuna, Sweden (Second course: Guiding Ethics Case Reflection Rounds, part I)

### Upcoming meetings of the WGE

26-28 Apr, 2020, Sweden

15-18 Nov 2020, Norway

## Upcoming course arranged by the WGE

25-27 Mar 2020, Guiding Ethics Case Reflection Rounds, part II

## Funding

Pergert (co-applicant: Castor) has received a grant for the WGE for 2018-2020 (PL2017-0002) from the Swedish Childhood Cancer Foundation.

## Annual Report 2019

### Activities of the WGE during the last year

Two new members had been recruited to the group.

The members, who have been inspired and enabled by their participation in the WGE, perform much of the CES locally.

The local CES projects performed by members includes: organizing and facilitating ECR rounds on several levels in the healthcare structure; arranging and contributing to ethical education of healthcare professionals and students; serving as members on national, regional and local ethics committees or societies; performing and contributing to research projects.

Two members (Bartholdson & Nilsson) has taught clinical ethics, on three occasions during 2019, at the short introduction courses on paediatric oncology for nurses. Two other members (Pergert & Castor) taught clinical ethics at the national education in paediatric oncology for nurses. On the Nordic level, one of the focuses of the group has been to organize the second course in guiding ethics case reflection (ECR).

Among the 22 participants are 11 nurses, 9 physicians, 1 nursing assistant and 1 play-therapist. Most participants come from Sweden (n=16), 2 are from Finland and 4 from Denmark. The course briefly cover the theory of ECR rounds but is first and foremost a skills course; including the implementation of ECR rounds at the paediatric oncology centres. The first part of the course was a 3-day introduction (Oct 2019) to guiding ECR rounds followed by a period in which the participants practice and implement ECR rounds in their clinical setting. The second part of the course is a 2-day follow-up (will be held in march 2020) where participants will fine-tune their knowledge and skills. The WGE is collaborating with Professor Molewijk at VU University in Amsterdam, and the course management team consisted of, apart from Bert Molewijk, Anders Castor, Pernilla Pergert, Cecilia Bartholdson and Lisa Törnudd.

Cecilia Bartholdson et al. is continuing the evaluation of the training and the implemented ECR rounds as a larger research project and Pergert has been granted separate funding from the Swedish Childhood Cancer Fund (PR2016-0020) for the research project entitled "Evaluation of ethics support – What is the impact of moral case deliberations on paediatric oncology?"

The WGE has been an expert reference group in a multi-site cross-sectional Nordic survey on communication over language barriers, moral distress and the ethical climate in childhood cancer care. In 2019, four articles with results from Sweden has been published (and one more in 2020) and the research project is continuing through Pernilla Pergert et al. and is now focusing on the other Nordic countries, in collaboration with national coordinators (NC) from the WGE. Data collection is ongoing in Finland (NC: Kristian Juusola) and Denmark (NC: Gitte Petersen), and is about to start in Norway (NC: Anne Gro Wesenberg Rognlien).

A new version of the website that will be easier to find and navigate is under construction.

### Presentations on ethics at international conferences from the group or with group members as co-authors during 2019

Members have participated and presented research at various conferences on clinical ethics. Two members (Pergert & Bartholdson) participated at the International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consulta-

tion (ICCEC) in Vienna. During the conference they participated in an expert meeting about revising the Euro-MCD instrument. Bartholdson gave an oral presentation with the title "How Can the Immediate Management of the Organisation Influence the Ethical Climate?" Pergert also, as a member of the ECEN Steering Committee, participated at the ECEN Open Forum Day in Oxford with the theme Qualifying Ethics Support Services and Training Ethics Consultants. At SIOP, Bartholdson and Pergert presented research on clinical ethics.

#### Published congress abstracts (on ethics, presented by members)

- **af Sandeberg, M., Bartholdson, C. & Pergert, P.** (2019) Situations important to capture moral distress in paediatric oncology - A national cross-sectional survey. (SIOP Meeting Abstract) *Pediatric Blood & Cancer*, 66, (Suppl. 4), p.S94.
- **Bartholdson, C., af Sandeberg, M., Molewijk, B. & Pergert, P.** (2019) Ethical decision-making in paediatric oncology - Do participation in ethics case reflection rounds increase perceptions of involvement, possibility to influence, responsibility and understanding? (SIOP Meeting Abstract) *Pediatric Blood & Cancer*, 66, (Suppl. 4), p.S95.

#### Publications from the Nordic project and on clinical ethics from the group or with group members as co-authors, Original articles 2019

- **Pergert, P., Bartholdson, C., Blomgren, K., & af Sandeberg, M.** *Moral distress in paediatric oncology: Contributing factors and group differences*, *Nursing Ethics*. 2019 26(7-8):2351-2363.
- **Pergert, P., Bartholdson, C., & af Sandeberg, M.** *The ethical climate in paediatric oncology—A national cross-sectional survey of health-care personnel*. *Psycho-Oncology*. 2019 Apr;28(4):735-741. DOI:10.1002/pon.5009
- **Schröder Håkansson, A., Pergert, P, Abrahamsson, J., Stenmarker, M.** *Balancing values and obligations when obtaining informed consent: healthcare professionals' experiences in Swedish paediatric oncology*. *Acta Paediatrica*, 2019; Accepted. DOI: 10.1111/apa.15010
- **Granhagen Jungner, J., Tiselius, E., Blomgren, K., Lützn, K., Pergert, P.** *Language barriers and the use of professional interpreters: A national multisite cross-sectional survey in paediatric oncology care*. *Acta Oncologica*. 2019; 58(7), 1015–1020.
- **af Sandeberg, M., Bartholdson, C. & Pergert, P.** *Important situations that capture moral distress in paediatric oncology*. *BMC Med Ethics*. 2020;21(1):6.

#### Other publications

- **Pergert, P. & Tiselius, E.** *Intercultural competence and communication over language barriers*. In: Kate A. Mazur & Stacey Berg, *Ethical Issues in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology*. Switzerland: Springer; 2020.
- **Tiselius, E., Hägglund, E. & Pergert, P.** *Distressful situations, non-supportive work climate, threats to professional and private integrity - Healthcare interpreting in Sweden*. In: Izabel Souza, I & Fragkou, E.E *Handbook of Research on Medical Interpreting*. Hershey, PA: IGI Global, 2020, p 54-79.
- **Pergert, P., Sullivan, CE., Adde, M., Afungchwi GM., Downing, J., Hollis, R., Ilbawi, A., Morrissey, L., Punjwani, R. & Challinor, J.** *An ethical imperative: Safety and specialization as nursing priorities of WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer*. *Pediatr Blood Cancer*. 2019;e28143.

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## **Publications**

## NOPHO Publications

Publications based on cooperative projects within NOPHO.

**1983**

**Moe PJ.** *Combined Nordic Meeting of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology.* Am J Hematol Oncol 1983; 4:438.

**1986**

**Moe PJ, Hertz H, Ludvigsson J, Siimes M, Jonmundsson G.** *Feilmedisinering hos barn – profylakse og terapi.* Nordisk Medicin 1986; 101:8-9.

**1987**

**Gustafsson G, Garwicz S, Hertz H, Jonmundsson G, Johansson G, Moe PJ, Salmi T, Seip M, Siimes MA, Yssing M and Åhström L for NOPHO.** *A Population-based study of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia diagnosed from July 1981 through June 1985 in the five Nordic countries.* Acta Paediatr Scand 1987; 76: 781-788.

**1989**

**Gustafsson G, Berglund G, Garwicz S, Hertz H, Jonmundsson G, Moe PJ, Salmi TT, Seip M, Siimes MA, Yssing M for NOPHO.** *A population-based study of children with standard risk acute lymphoblastic leukemia in the five Nordic countries.* Acta Paediatr Scand 1989; 78: 104-109.

**Nygaard R, Moe PJ.** *Outcome after cessation of therapy in childhood leukemia. A population-based Nordic study of 986 patients. I and II.* Acta Paediatr Scand 1989, Suppl. 354:1-24.

**Nygaard R, Moe PJ, Brincker H, Clausen N, Nyman R, Perkkio M, Eilertsen ME, Johansen OJ, Väre M, Brinch L, Siimes MA.** *Late relapses after treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukemia in childhood. A population-based study from the Nordic countries.* Med Ped Oncol 1989;17:45-47.

**Schmiegelow K, Siimes MA, Agertoft L, Berglund L, Storm-Mathiesen I, Andreassen M, Salmi TT, Nygaard R, Wiebe T, Kreuger A, Hayder S.** *Radio-iodobenzylguanidine scintigraphy of neuroblastoma: Conflicting results, when*

*compared with standard investigations.* Med Ped Oncol 1989;17:126-130.

**1990**

**Clausen N, Garwicz S, Glomsten A, Jonmundsson G, Kruus S, Yssing M.** *Medulloblastoma in Nordic children. I. Incidence and mortality.* Acta Pædiatr Scand 1990, suppl.371:5-11.

**Jacobsen BB, Garwicz S, Glomstein A, Jonmundsson G, Kruus S, Yssing M.** *Medulloblastoma in Nordic children. III. Long term growth and endocrine sequelae.* Acta Pædiatr Scand 1990;271:20-27.

**Lie S, Berglund G, Gustafsson G, Jonmundsson G, Siimes M, Yssing M for NOPHO.** *High dose ARA-C as a single agent consolidation therapy in childhood AML. In: Haematology and Blood Transfusion. Acute Leukemia II.* pp 215-221. Springer Verlag, 1990.

**Yssing M, Garwicz S, Glomstein A, Jonmundsson G, Kruus S.** *Medulloblastoma in Nordic children. II. Neurologic and social prognosis in long term survivors.* Acta Pædiatr Scand 1990, suppl.371:12-19.

**1991**

**Kreuger A, Garwicz S, Hertz H, Jonmundsson G, Lanning M, Lie SO, Moe PJ, Salmi TT, Schroeder H, Siimes MA, Wesenberg F, Yssing M, Åhström L and Gustafsson G for NOPHO.** *CNS disease in childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Prognostic factors and treatment results.* Pediatr Hem Oncol 1991; 8:291-299.

**Lie SO on behalf of the Nordic Society for Pediatric Hematology and Oncology (NOPHO).** *Progress in treatment of childhood leukemias.* Eur J Cancer 1991; suppl.2:11.

**Nygaard R.** *Long-term survival in childhood leukemia. Relapses and late effects after completed therapy.* Thesis, University of Trondheim, Tapir, 1991.

**Nygaard R, Clausen N, Siimes MA, Marky I, Skjeldestad FE, Kristinsson JR, Vuoristo A, Wegelius R, Moe PJ.** *Reproduction following treatment for childhood leukemia: A population-*

*based prospective cohort study of fertility and offspring.* Med Ped Oncol 1991;19:459-466.

**Nygaard R, Garwicz S, Haldorsen T, Hertz H, Jonmundsson GK, Lanning M, Moe PJ.** *Second malignant neoplasms in patients treated for childhood leukemia. A population-based cohort study from the Nordic countries.* Acta Pædiatr Scand 1991;80:1220-1228.

1992

**Lanning M, Garwitz S, Hertz H, Jonmundsson G, Kreuger A, Lie SO, Moe PJ, Salmi TT, Schröder H, Siimes M, Wesenberg F, Yssing M, Åhström L and Gustafsson G for NOPHO.** *Superior treatment results in girls with high risk acute lymphoblastic leukemia compared to boys.* Acta Paediatr Scand 1992; 81:66-68.

**Lie Sverre and Gustafsson Göran on behalf of the Nordic Society for Pediatric Hematology and Oncology (NOPHO).** *Progress in the treatment of childhood leukemias.* Review article Annals of Medicine 1992; 24:319-323.

1993

**Siimes MA, Lie SO, Andersen O, Marky I, Rautonen J, Hertz H.** *Prophylactic cranial irradiation increases the risk of testicular damage in adult males surviving ALL in childhood.* Med Ped Oncol 1993;21:117-121.

**Olsen JH, Garwicz S, Hertz H, Jonmundsson G, Langmark F, Lanning M, Lie SO, Moe PJ, Möller T, Sankila R and Tullinius H.** *Second malignant neoplasma after cancer in childhood or adolescence.* Br Med J 1993; 307: 1030-1036.

1994

**Moell C, Marky I, Hovi L, Kristinsson J, Rix M, Moe PJ and Garwicz S.** *Cerebral irradiation causes blunted pubertal growth in girls treated for acute leukemia.* Med Pediatr Oncol 1994;22:375-379.

1995

**Schröder H, Garwicz S, Gustafsson G, Kristinsson J, Siimes MA and Wesenberg F on behalf of NOPHO.** *Outcome after relapse in children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.* Med Ped Onc 1995; 25:372-378.

**Schmiegelow K, Schröder H, Gustafsson G, Kristinsson J, Glomstein A, Salmi T, and Wranne L for NOPHO.** *Risk of relapse in child-*

*hood acute lymphoblastic leukemia is related to RBC methotrexate and mercaptopurine metabolites during maintenance chemotherapy.* Nordic Society for Pediatric Hematology and Oncology. Journal Clin Oncol 1995; 13:345-351.

**Marky I, Jonsson O, Kreuger A, Gustafsson G, Perkkio M, Schmiegelow K, Storm-Mathiesen I and Langmark F.** *Childhood Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL) in the five Nordic countries. A five year population based study.* Am Journal Pediatr Hem/Onc.; 17(2): 163-166, 1995.

1996

**Saarinen U, Mellander L, Nyström K, Ringden O, Schroeder H, Glomstein A and Gustafsson G for NOPHO.** *Allogeneic bone marrow transplantation in first remission for children with very high risk acute lymphoblastic leukemia: A retrospective case-control study in the Nordic countries.* Bone Marrow Transplantation; 17 (3):357-363 1996.

**Lie S, Jonmundsson G, Mellander L, Siimes MA, Yssing M and Gustafsson G on behalf of NOPHO.** *A population based study of 272 children with acute myeloid leukemia treated on two consecutive protocols with different intensity: Best outcome in girls, infants and in children with Down's syndrom.* Br Journal of Hematology 1996; 94:82-88

**Clausen N, Kreuger A, Salmi T, Storm-Mathisen I, Johannesson G.** *Severe aplastic anaemia in the Nordic countries: a population based study of incidence, presentation, course, and outcome.* Arch Dis Child 1996;74; 319-22

**Sankila R, Garwicz S, Olsen JH, Dollner H, Hertz H, Kreuger A, Langmark F, Lanning M, Moller T and Tullinius H.** *Risk of subsequent malignant neoplasms among 1641 Hodgkin's disease patients diagnosed in childhood and adolescence. A population based cohort study in the five Nordic countries.* JCO, 1996;14(5):1442-46.

1997

**Schmiegelow K, Glomstein A, Kristinsson J, Salmi T, Schroder H, Bjork O.** *Impact of morning versus evening schedule for oral methotrexate and 6-mercaptopurine on relapse risk for children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.* Nordic Society for Pediatric Hematology and Oncology (NOPHO). J Ped Hematol Oncol, 1997;19(2):102-9.

**Lie SO, Jonmundsson GK, Mellander L, Siimes MA, Yssing M, Gustafsson G.** *Chemotherapy of acute myelocytic leukemia in children.* Ann N Y Acad Sci. 1997;824:84-90. Review.

**1998**

**Gustafsson G, Lie SO.** *Acute leukemias. In: Cancer in children, clinical management, 4th edn. (ed PA Voute, C Kalifa, A Barrett).* Oxford University Press, London, 1998, 99-118.

**Sankila R, Olsen JH, Anderson H, Garwicz S, Glatte E, Hertz H, Langmark F, Lanning M, Möller T and Tulinius H.** *Risk of cancer among offsprings of childhood-cancer survivors.* New Engl J Med, 1998;338:1339.

**Gustafsson G, Kreuger A, Clausen N, Garwicz S, Kristinsson J, Lie SO, Moe PJ, Perkiö M, Yssing M and Saarinen-Pihkala U.** *Intensified treatment of acute childhood lymphoblastic leukemia has improved prognosis, especially in non-high-risk patients: the Nordic experience of 2648 patients diagnosed between 1981 and 1996.* Acta Paediatr, 1998;87:1151-61.

**Jahnukainen K, Salmi TT, Kristinsson J, Müller J, Madsen B, Gustafsson G.** *The clinical indications for identical pathogenesis of isolated and non-isolated testicular relapse in acute lymphoblastic leukemia.* Acta Paediatr, 1998,87:638-643

**1999**

**Schroeder H, Gustafsson G, Saarinen-Pihkala U, Glomstein A, Jonmundsson G, Nysom K, Ringden O and Mellander L.** *Allogeneic bone marrow transplantation in second remission of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia: a population-based case control study from the Nordic countries.* Bone Marrow Transplant, 1999,Mar;23(6):555-560

**2000**

**Garwicz S, Anderson H, Olsen JH, Döllner H, Hertz H, Jonmundsson G, Langmark F, Lanning M, Möller T, Sankila R, Tulinius H.** *Second malignant neoplasms after cancer in childhood and adolescence: A population-based case-control study in the 5 nordic countries.* Int J Cancer 88: 672-678, 2000.

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*of cancer in childhood and adolescence: A population-based study in the Nordic countries.* J Clin Oncol (in press).

**Forestier E, Johansson B, Borgstrom G, Kerndrup G, Johansson J, Heim S.** *Cytogenetic findings in a population-based series of 787 childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemias from the Nordic countries. The NOPHO Leukemia Cytogenetic Study Group.* Eur J Haematol. 2000 Mar;64(3):194-200.

**Forestier E, Johansson B, Gustafsson G, Borgstrom G, Kerndrup G, Johansson J, Heim S.** *Prognostic impact of karyotypic findings in childhood acute lymphoblastic leukaemia: a Nordic series comparing two treatment periods. For the Nordic Society of Paediatric Haematology and Oncology (NOPHO) Leukaemia Cytogenetic Study Group.* Br J Haematol. 2000 Jul;110(1):147-53.

**Gustafsson G, Schmiegelow K, Forestier E, Clausen N, Glomstein A, Jonmundsson G, Mellander L, Mäkipernaa A, Nygaard R, Saarinen-Pihkala U-M.** *Improving outcome through two decades in childhood ALL in the Nordic countries: the impact of high-dose methotrexate in the reduction of CNS irradiation.* Leukemia, 2000, 14: 2267-2275.

**2001**

**Lie SO, Clausen N, Jonmundsson G, Mellander L, Siimes MA, Gustafsson G, on behalf of the Nordic Society for Pediatric Hematology and Oncology (NOPHO).** *Early response to therapy is the strongest prognostic factor in childhood AML. Acute Leukemias VIII. Prognostic and Treatment Strategies, Springer 2001; 499-507*

**Saarinen-Pihkala UM, Gustafsson G, Ringdén O. et al.** *No disadvantage in outcome of using matched unrelated donors as compared with matched sibling donors for bone marrow transplantation in children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in second remission.* J Clin Oncol 19:3406-3414, 2001.

**Möller TR, Garwicz S, Barlow L, Falck Winther J, Glatte E, Olafsdottir G, Olsen JH, Perfekt R, Ritvanen A, Sankila R, Tulinius H.** *Decreasing late mortality among five-year survivors of cancer in childhood and adolescence: A population-based study in the Nordic countries.* J Clin Oncol 19: 3173-81, 2001.

2002

**T M Calero Moreno, G Gustafsson, S Garwicz, D Grandér, G K Jonmundsson, B-M Frost, A Mäkipernaa, O Rasool, E-R Savolainen, K Schmiegelow, S Söderhäll, Vettenranta, F Wesenberg, S Einhorn, M Heyman.** *Deletion of the ink4-locus (the p16ink4a, p14ARF and ND p15ink4b genes) predicts relapse in children with ALL treated according to the Nordic Protocols NOPHO-86 and NOPHO-92.* Leukemia, 16, 2037-2045, 2002.

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**Seyfarth J, Madsen HO, Nyvold C, Ryder LP, Clausen N, Jonmundsson G, Wesenberg F, Schmiegelow K.** *Post-induction residual disease in translocation t(12;21)-positive childhood ALL.* Med Ped Oncol 2003; 40: 82-7.

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