

CASCADE

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2021

Dear all

We hope that our annual newsletter finds you in good physical and mental health. We are pleased to send you our third annual CASCADE newsletter!

We also take the opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support. We would like to welcome participants who have newly enrolled in the study, and thank those that have already completed the first follow-up survey. The second follow-up survey will be released during fall of 2022.

The second annual lottery will take place in January 2022! One lucky participant will win a gift card of CHF 300. The winning canton will be announced on our website (swisscascade.ch) and our next newsletter. In 2021 the lucky participant was from Delémont.

Your CASCADE study team
swisscascade-nursing@unibas.ch

We thank the following clinical sites for their support:



The CASCADE study received additional funding!

In July 2021 the Swiss Cancer Research Foundation has extended funding for the CASCADE study for **three more years**. We will examine whether information gained from genetic testing guides different aspects of clinical practice and precision healthcare.

This would not have been possible without **your support**.

A wholehearted **THANK YOU!**

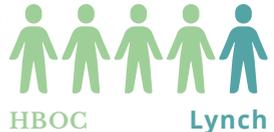
STATE OF THE PROJECT AND NEXT STEPS



We continue our recruitment in the cantons of **Basel-Stadt, Berne, Geneva, Jura** and **Ticino**. We also welcome our new partners, the Breast Center at the Kantonsspital **Fribourg**, the Hirslanden Clinic in **Grangettes**, and the Oncological Clinic at the Kantonsspital **Winterthur**.

Recruiting participants from different places in Switzerland and different types of healthcare facilities helps us generalize our findings. This means that we can reach conclusions that apply to more people in Switzerland.

Until now we have recruited a total of **506 individuals**, coming from **357 families**; **273 families** are concerned with hereditary breast and ovarian cancer (HBOC) and **85 families** are concerned with **Lynch syndrome**.

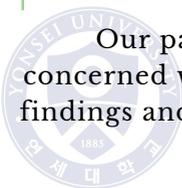


Our findings show that:

- participants who are **older** and those who had **genetic testing less than five years ago** are more likely to **contact** more relatives
- Each family has an average of **9 relatives** who could take part in the study
- **Females** and **first-degree relatives** are more likely to be **invited** to the study and more likely to **accept** the invitation

We ask for your help to reach as many relatives as possible, even if they already had testing, and even if genetic testing did not identify the familial pathogenic variant.

Our partners in **Korea**, have already recruited **205 individuals** concerned with HBOC for the **K-CASCADE** study. Soon we will compare findings and learn from the different healthcare systems in each country.



NEW TEAM MEMBERS



Dr. Reka Schweighoffer has a background in clinical and social psychology. As a post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Clinical Research at the University of Basel, she examines information shared from participants in Swiss German. She wants to understand how individuals are able to deal with hereditary cancer risk.

Ms. Alexandra Brem has a background in biology and is responsible for recruiting participants from Kantonspital Winterthur.



Dr. Souria Aissaoui is a genetic counselor and provides genetic consultation to families concerned with HBOC and Lynch syndrome at the Kantonspital Fribourg and the Hirslanden Clinic in Grangettes.

Ms. Ashley Machen is a registered nurse and is responsible for recruiting participants from Kantonspital Fribourg and Hirslanden Clinic in Grangettes.



Dr. med Ursina Zürcher-Härdis is head of medical oncology and hematology at the Kantonsspital Winterthur and she provides genetic consultation to families concerned with HBOC and Lynch syndrome.



RESULTS

Genetic testing can identify Lynch syndrome with almost 100% accuracy compared to other screening methods. We examined whether offering genetic testing for Lynch syndrome to all patients with a new diagnosis of colorectal cancer would be cost-effective, meaning it will help the Swiss healthcare system save money. Our analysis showed that we would be able to **prevent 17 deaths** from Lynch syndrome and **avoids 19 new cases** of colorectal cancer every year and at a reasonable cost for the Swiss healthcare system. One important implication of our findings is that basic/ mandatory health insurance should cover the cost of genetic testing for second- and third-degree relatives of patients with Lynch syndrome.

This analysis is accepted for publication in the Journal of Medical Genetics, a leading journal for Genetics and Heredity.

Salikhanov I., Heinimann K., Chappuis PO, Bürki N, Graffeo-Galbiati R, Heinzelmann-Schwarz V, Rabaglio M, Taborelli M, Wieser S, Katapodi MC and the CASCADE Consortium (2021). A Swiss cost-effectiveness analysis of universal screening for Lynch syndrome of colorectal cancer patients followed by cascade genetic testing of relatives. Journal of Medical Genetics (doi TBD).

[Our team made 4 presentations at the 6th Annual Basel Breast Consortium meeting that took place on November 17-18, 2021:](#)

1. "Invitation to relatives and rates of cascade testing in families concerned with HBOC and Lynch syndrome: The Swiss CASCADE cohort" presented by Prof. Maria C. Katapodi
2. "Comparison among subgroups of breast cancer patients with different cognitive complains and co-occurring symptoms before breast cancer surgery" presented by PhD student Yu-Yin Allemann-Su
3. "Different access to genetic services in HBOC and Lynch syndrome families in Switzerland" presented by PhD student Mahesh Sarki
4. "Is hospice-based palliative care for cancer patients cost-effective in resource-limited settings of the Republic of Kazakhstan?" presented by PhD student Islam Salikhanov

We thank the following organizations for their support to the CASCADE study:



krebsliga schweiz
ligue suisse contre le cancer
lega svizzera contro il cancro



SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



University
of Basel

krebsforschung schweiz
recherche suisse contre le cancer
ricerca svizzera contro il cancro
swiss cancer research