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SPCG-17 - when to treat men who are in active surveillance for prostate cancer, a randomized study comparing current practice with standardized triggers for initiation of curative treatment

Submission date 05/09/2016	**Recruitment status** No longer recruiting	[X] Prospectively registered [X] Protocol
Registration date 20/09/2016	**Overall study status** Ongoing	[X] Statistical analysis plan [_] Results
Last Edited 20/01/2026	**Condition category** Cancer	[_] Individual participant data [X] Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the Western world. If prostate cancer is detected when it is at an early stage and not causing any symptoms, treatment is not immediately needed. Instead the patient's condition is carefully monitored (active surveillance) with blood tests (the PSA test), physical examination of the prostate, and taking a small sample of tissue (a biopsy) from the prostate. There is however a problematic knowledge gap surrounding active surveillance, and the most important piece of evidence missing is when treatment is likely to be needed and beneficial for the patient. Moreover, the optimal follow-up programs are not yet defined. The aim of this study is to compare current practice of active surveillance with a standardised program for follow-up and triggers for treatment. It is believed that standardised criteria for treatment will reduce unnecessary treatment of early stage prostate cancer, without increasing the risk of not being cured in time. Patients can safely be followed-up by nurses, which increase continuity. Standardised, evidence-based active surveillance programs can also decrease inequities of health care in and between countries.

Who can participate?

Scandinavian and British men with untreated low-risk or favourable intermediate-risk prostate cancer, eligible for active surveillance

What does the study involve?

Participants are randomly allocated to one of two equally sized groups. One group is monitored according to current clinical practice at the clinic where the participant is a patient. The other group is monitored according to a standardised program where treatment is initiated only when specific criteria are fulfilled. Both groups undergo a standard set of prostate biopsies and an MRI examination of the prostate upon inclusion in the study, and are then followed in the same way with PSA testing every 6 months, a yearly clinical check-up, and an MRI examination of the

prostate every 2 years. In the clinical practice group, further biopsies and tests can be performed according to the urologist's judgement.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
Not provided at time of registration

Where is the study run from?
The study is run from Uppsala University (Sweden), and a number of hospitals in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and the UK will enrol patients into the study.

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
June 2016 to December 2040

Who is funding the study?
1. The Swedish Cancer Society
2. Swedish research council
3. Nordic Cancer Union

Who is the main contact?
Professor Anna Bill-Axelson
anna.bill.axelson@uu.se

Contact information

Type(s)
Public

Contact name
Dr Ulrika Aberg

Contact details
Uppsala University, Urology
Dag Hammarskjolds vag 26
Uppsala
Sweden
75237
0046701679744
ulrika.aberg@uu.se

Type(s)
Scientific

Contact name
Prof Anna Bill-Axelson

Contact details
Uppsala University, Urology
Dag Hammarskjolds vag 26
Uppsala
Sweden
75237

Additional identifiers

Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)
Nil known

ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT)
NCT02914873

Protocol serial number
Nil known

Study information

Scientific Title
SPCG-17 - Prostate Cancer Active Surveillance Trigger Trial (PCASTT)

Study objectives
The study hypothesis is that standardized triggers for initiation of curative treatment of men who are in active surveillance will reduce over-treatment without increasing disease progression and prostate cancer mortality.

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
Regional Ethical Vetting Board in Uppsala, Sweden, 15/06/2016, ref: 2016/204

Study design
Randomized multi-centre open-label clinical trial

Primary study design
Interventional

Study type(s)
Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Active surveillance for low-risk and favourable intermediate-risk prostate cancer

Interventions
Current interventions as of 11/06/2019:

Computerized randomisation (1:1) within 12 months from diagnosis of prostate cancer, either to active surveillance according to current practice at the trial centre (reference arm), or to a standardised active surveillance protocol applying specific criteria for initiating curative treatment (experimental arm).

Patients are stratified by centre and Gleason score.

Follow-up in the reference arm (current practice at the trial centre): PSA every 6 months, clinical examination (with PSA test) annually, and MRI (with targeted biopsies at suspicious lesions) every second year. Repeat biopsies and/or other examinations can be initiated according to the urologist's judgement.

Follow-up in the experimental arm (criteria for intervention): PSA every 6 months, clinical examination (with PSA test) annually, and MRI (with targeted biopsies at suspicious lesions) every second year. Repeat biopsies and/or curative treatment is initiated if specific criteria are fulfilled (see below).

Criteria for repeat biopsies (experimental arm only):
1. A systematic repeat biopsy if PSA density increases to > 0.2 ng/ml/cc
2. MRI progression in men with previously only Gleason grade 3+3 (5 mm or more increase in size in any dimension of a measurable lesion, increase in PI-RADS score to 3-5, high or very-high suspicion of extra-capsular extension or seminal vesicle invasion, or a new lesion with PI-RADS score 3-5)
3. MRI progression in men with Gleason grade 3+4 (5 mm or more increase in size in any dimension of a measurable lesion, or a new lesion with PI-RADS score 3-5)

Criteria for curative treatment (experimental arm only):
1. MRI progression in lesions with confirmed Gleason grade 4 (increase in PI-RADS score to 4 or 5, or high or very-high suspicion of extra-capsular extension or seminal vesicle invasion)
2. Pathological progression (Gleason pattern 5, primary Gleason pattern 4 in any core with 5 mm or more cancer, Gleason 3+4 in 3 or more cores or 30% if more than 10 cores are taken, or Gleason 3+4 in 10 mm or more cancer)

Patients will be followed continuously until initiation of treatment, the event of metastasis, to a break point where active surveillance is considered terminated and watchful waiting starts, or to death of any cause. After the initiation of curative treatment, watchful waiting, or palliative treatment for cancer progression, the patient is followed according to the standard protocol of the participating centre.

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1. A systematic repeat biopsy if PSA density increases to > 0.2 ng/ml/cc
2. MRI progression in men with previously only Gleason grade 3+3 (5 mm or more increase in size in any dimension of a measurable lesion, increase in PI-RADS score to 3-5, new suspicion of extra-capsular extension or seminal vesicle invasion, or a new lesion with PI-RADS score 3-5)
3. MRI progression in men with Gleason grade 3+4 (5 mm or more increase in size in any dimension of a measurable lesion, or a new lesion with PI-RADS score 3-5)

Criteria for curative treatment (experimental arm only):
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Intervention Type
Other

Primary outcome(s)
Current primary outcome measure as of 15/12/2024:
The primary outcome is disease progression, defined as 1) cumulative incidence of PSA relapse after curative treatment or 2) cumulative incidence of androgen deprivation therapy in untreated men still in active surveillance.

The first analysis for the primary endpoint will be performed 1 year after inclusion of the last patient into the study. Subsequent analyses for primary (and secondary) endpoints will be performed every 3 years.

Previous primary outcome measure:
The primary outcome is progression-free survival, which is defined as cumulative incidence of PSA relapse after curative treatment and cumulative incidence of androgen deprivation therapy in untreated men.

The first analysis for the primary endpoint will be performed 1 year after inclusion of the last patient. Subsequent analyses for primary (and secondary) endpoint will be performed every 3 years. Final outcome at 10 years is cumulative prostate cancer mortality.

Key secondary outcome(s))
Current secondary outcome measure as of 15/12/2024:
1. Cumulative incidence of pT3 at radical prostatectomy specimens
2. Cumulative incidence of metastasis (will be assessed after each follow-up examination)
3. Cumulative number of treatments with curative intent (mainly radical prostatectomies or local radiotherapy)
4. Cumulative incidence of switch to watchful waiting
5. Prostate cancer mortality

6. Quality of life (will be assessed from questionnaires at baseline and every 2 years)
7. Costs

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Completion date
31/12/2040

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Recently (within 12 months) diagnosed adenocarcinoma of the prostate
2. Tumour stage ≤ T2a, NX, M0 (former MX)
3. PSA <15 ng/ml, PSA density ≤ 0,2 ng/ml/cc
4. Gleason pattern 3+3=6 (any number of cores, any cancer involvement) or Gleason pattern 3+4=7 (<3 cores (or <30 % of cores if more than ten cores are taken), <10 mm cancer in one core)
5. Life expectancy >10 years with no upper age limit
6. Candidate for curative treatment if progression occurs
7. Signed written informed consent

Participant type(s)
Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Adult

Sex
Male

Total final enrolment
2009

Key exclusion criteria
Participants not fulfilling the inclusion criteria

Date of first enrolment
01/10/2016

Date of final enrolment
30/09/2024

Locations

Countries of recruitment
United Kingdom

England

Denmark

Finland

Norway

Sweden

Study participating centre
The Royal Marsden Hospital
Fulham Road
London
England
SW3 6JJ

Study participating centre
King's College Hospital
-
London
England
SE5 9RS

Study participating centre
Guy’s Hospital
-
London
England
SE1 9RT

Study participating centre

Epsom and St Helier Hospital
-
Surrey
England
KT18 7EG

Study participating centre
Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Woolwich Stadium Road
Woolwich
London
England
SE18 4QH

Study participating centre
Bedford Hospital
Kempston Road
Bedford
England
MK42 9DJ

Study participating centre
Croydon University Hospital
London Road
Croydon
England
CR7 7YE

Study participating centre
Akademiska Hospital
Uppsala
Sweden
SE-752 37

Study participating centre
Sahlgrenska University Hospital
Göteborg
Sweden
SE-413 45

Study participating centre
Örebro University Hospital
Örebro
Sweden
SE-701 85

Study participating centre
Linköping University Hospital
Linköping
Sweden
SE-581 85

Study participating centre
Helsinki University Hospital
Helsinki
Finland
FI-00029

Study participating centre
Umeå University Hospital
Umeå
Sweden
SE-901 85

Study participating centre
Sundsvall Hospital
Sundsvall
Sweden
SE-851 86

Study participating centre
Sunderby Hospital
Luleå
Sweden
SE-971 80

Study participating centre

Växjö Hospital
Växjö
Sweden
SE-351 85

Study participating centre
St Olavs Hospital
Trondheim
Norway
NO-7006

Study participating centre
Vestfold Hospital
Tønsberg
Norway
NO-3116

Study participating centre
Ålesund Hospital
Ålesund
Norway
NO-6026

Study participating centre
Oslo University Hospital
Oslo
Norway
NO-0424

Study participating centre
Seinäjoki Central Hospital
Tampere
Finland
FI-33014

Study participating centre

University Hospital of North Norway
Tromsø
Norway
NO-9038

Study participating centre
Odense University Hospital
Odense
Denmark
DK-5000

Study participating centre
Rigshospitalet
Copenhagen
Denmark
-

Sponsor information

Organisation
Uppsala University

ROR
https://ror.org/048a87296

Funder(s)

Funder type
Charity

Funder Name
Cancerfonden

Alternative Name(s)
Swedish Cancer Society

Funding Body Type
Private sector organisation

Funding Body Subtype

Trusts, charities, foundations (both public and private)

Location
Sweden

Funder Name
Svenska Forskningsrådet Formas

Alternative Name(s)
Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning, Swedish Research Council Formas, Formas

Funding Body Type
Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype
National government

Location
Sweden

Funder Name
Nordic Cancer Union

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan
Not provided at time of registration

IPD sharing plan summary
Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Protocol article		22/08/2019	21/09/2020	Yes	No
Statistical Analysis Plan		19/11/2025	20/01/2026	No	No
Study website		11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes