

STUDY SYNOPSIS OF THE ESGO-SWISS GO COOPERATIVE PROJECT

BACKGROUND

At present, with an incidence of 800 cases per year, advanced ovarian cancers are treated in numerous hospitals in Switzerland. Moreover, treatment can be performed by any gynecologist, a specialization in gynecological oncology is not required. Due to this situation, the Swiss Government Health Organization (GDK) under the HSM regulation, with support of the Swiss-AGO (Swiss Gynecological Oncologists), has initiated a centralization process, whereby only centers are allowed to perform care in ovarian cancer if certain quality criteria are included. Among them are (A) having a subspecialist in Gynecological Oncology performing surgery, (B) having a case load over 20 cases per year, (C) being scientifically active, and (D) being a gynecological oncology training center. Centralization in these specialized centers is assumed to start in summer/fall 2024. The GDK has initiated a quality-control process which will be under the lead of Prof. Heinzelmann-Schwarz as president of the Swiss-AGO. Hereby, quality parameters will need to be submitted to GDK once a year to accompany the centralization process and demonstrate the effect of this regulative measure.

To implement quantifiable measures, the European Society of Gynaecological Oncology (ESGO) has established quality indicators for centers performing gynecological cancer surgery based on available literature and expert opinion.^{1,2} Based on these published surgical quality indicators, the ESGO task force on ESGO Database (Prof. Nicole Concin, Prof. Ane Gerda Eriksson, Prof. Christoph Grimm, Prof. Viola Heinzelmann-Schwarz) has developed the founding project of the ESGO Database in 2023, which is currently used to assess the status and quality of care in the management of ovarian cancer patients in all ESGO accredited centers in Europe and beyond. Within Switzerland, 2 accredited Gynecological Cancer Centers are already participating in this founding project of the ESGO Database, the University Hospital Basel (Lead: Prof. Viola Heinzelmann-Schwarz) and University Hospital Berne (Lead: Prof. Michel Müller).

OVERALL AIM OF THE PRESENT STUDY

The aim of the study is to provide a collection of health-related routine data of patients treated for ovarian cancer to examine the quality of care before, during and after the process of a government-driven centralization (highly specialized medicine, HSM) in Switzerland. This study is performed in a cooperation between Swiss-AGO and the ESGO.

SPECIFIC AIMS

The published ESGO surgical quality indicators in advanced ovarian cancer surgery (together with other parameters) in each Swiss Center providing care in Gynecological Oncology (and particularly for ovarian cancer) are collected within this study before, during and after centralization in Switzerland. Health-related routine data of patients treated for ovarian cancer according to ESGO quality indicator parameters and other parameters will be collected among centers in Switzerland retrospectively (starting from the year 2020) and prospectively. This will allow to investigate the effect of centralization on the quality of care in ovarian cancer management in Switzerland.

The study data of each participating Swiss center can be used by the respective center to apply for an ESGO accreditation, should they match the ESGO quality standards.