

ICUROS Newsletter

Number 4 January 2009

Introduction

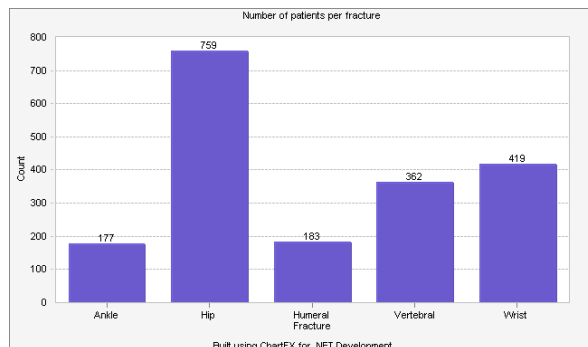
Welcome to the fourth number of the ICUROS newsletter which will inform about the current status and recent events in the International Costs and Utilities Related to Osteoporotic Fracture Study (ICUROS). The newsletter will be issued 4 times per year during the course of the study. If you want to be added to the distribution list for coming newsletters send an email to icuros@healtheconomics.se.

The ICUROS is endorsed by the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) and is administered by i3 Innovus in Stockholm, Sweden (formerly European Health Economics). IOF supports ICUROS as part of the Invest in Your Bones Campaign. In addition, the study is partly funded by a consortium of sponsors, currently consisting of Novartis, Kyphon, Wyeth, Amgen, Servier, Sanofi-Aventis and Eli Lilly. We are grateful to all sponsors for their continuous commitment to the study.

2008 summary

2008 was the year where ICUROS took off on an international level. Six countries; Austria, France, Italy, Lithuania, Spain and Russia; are now actively recruiting patients for the study, amounting to almost 2000 patients. During 2008, a total of 1 311 patients were recruited, giving an average monthly recruiting rate of close to 110 patients.

In the generic study questionnaire, data is collected for hip, vertebral and wrist fractures. Some countries have also chosen to enrol patients with humeral and ankle fractures. In the figure below, the total number of patients per fracture type is shown, irrespective of country of inclusion.



We encourage all investigators to keep up the good work with the patient inclusion.

Expectations for 2009

Due to changes in management in some countries and the lack of funds, the implementation of ICUROS have been somewhat delayed. We are, however, confident that new countries will start patient inclusion during 2009. The countries which have come furthest in their preparations but have yet not started patient inclusion are UK, US and Mexico. Investigators in Germany and Australia/New Zealand are also working actively for an implementation during 2009.

Apart from the countries already mentioned, investigators from Poland and China have also shown interest in the study.

If you want to get in contact with any of the national investigators or want to initiate ICUROS in a new country, please do not hesitate to contact the international coordinators (email at the bottom).

ICUROS presentation

The international coordinators of ICUROS will be present at the Ninth European Congress on Clinical and Economic Aspects of Osteoporosis and Osteoarthritis (ECCEO 9) in Athens in March. If there is an interest among investigators, a meeting will be held to share experiences and thoughts around the study. If you are interested in attending such a meeting, please contact Fredrik Borgström at fredrik.borgstrom@i3innovus.com.

Contact information

If you are interested to know more about the ICUROS you can visit the study website (www.icuros.org) or contact either Fredrik Borgström (fredrik.borgstrom@i3innovus.com).