

Key information

In these unprecedented times of the COVID-19 pandemic many in our POSE community are facing essential challenges and we hope that you and your families are and remain safe and healthy!

We would like to encourage you with some positive information regarding the POSE study.

At the beginning of the year we have published an updated version 1.2 of the Trial Statistical Analysis Plan under “Study documents” on our POSE website and several centres have helped us to resolve the last newly appeared discrepancies in the database before the final analysis.

The statistical analysis was finalized in May 2020.

After a first unsuccessful submission to the *LANCET* at the end of July, we have reformatted and submitted the manuscript to *JAMA* on 28st August. The manuscript has been sent to the reviewers and is still “under review”, fingers crossed.

If *JAMA* rejects our manuscript, we plan to submit it to the *BMJ*.

We will keep you informed on the process!

Secondary Analyses

a) Finally, we were able to clarify with our legal department of the University Hospital RWTH Aachen that we are allowed to send you the pseudonymised collected data for secondary analyses upon a signed **Data Transfer Agreement (DTA)** with your institution.

Though, the data are officially pseudonymised they are effectively seen as anonymised data, as nobody of us has the patient identification log of the participating centres! Further, the analyses are seen in conjunction with the original aim of the study to gain more insight into the perioperative outcomes of European elderly patients.

b) After our last Steering Committee meeting, we have updated our Guideline for Secondary analyses and the Secondary analysis proposal V 2.0.

Please see attached documents and on our website under “study documents”.

c) Please send us the completed Secondary analysis proposal V 2.0 if you plan any secondary analysis. Your application will be circulated to the Steering committee members. The application will be assessed by means of 1) scientific merit 2) feasibility of the secondary analysis and 3) funding possibilities. After positive approval from the SC, you will receive the Data Transfer Agreement form, which has to be signed accordingly.

d) We will post all planned and approved secondary analyses on our POSE website

We thank you for all your efforts and your valuable input in this study.
Above all, we wish you and your colleagues lots of strength for the current period!

Best wishes
Mark Coburn (Study Director)



Ana Kowark (Study Coordinator)

