



Welcome to SWISS-AF!

(Swiss Atrial Fibrillation Cohort Study)

During the last months, we all made a big effort to implement this broad interdisciplinary research project. Many scientific, regulatory, administrative and technical problems have been identified and successfully resolved. We are confident that within this unique national research network, we will get novel insights into the relationships between AF, structural brain damage and cognitive decline in elderly patients with AF.



Total number of patients included on August 28th: 147

Swiss-AF aims to enroll about 2400 patients within 24 months of the study. 8 of 13 planned centres are currently recruiting patients. New centres involved only recently: Kantonsspital Luzern / St. Anna Spital, Luzern / Triemli Spital, Zürich.

Patients included per site (April 1 - August 28, 2014)

Participating center	Patients enrolled (n)
1. Basel – Universitätsspital	103
2. Baden – Kantonsspital	9
3. Bellinzona – Ospedale Regionale di Bellinzona e Valli	1
4. Bern – Inselspital, Universitätskliniken für Allgemeine Medizin, Neurologie, Kardiologie	18
5. Fribourg – Hôpital Cantonal Fribourg	4
6. Genève – Hôpitaux Universitaires Genève	0
7. Lausanne – Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois	0
8. Lugano – Cardiocentro Ticino	3
9. Lugano – Ospedale Regionale di Lugano	4
10. Luzern – Kantonsspital	0
11. Luzern – St. Anna Spital	0
12. St. Gallen – Kantonsspital	5
13. Zürich – Triemli Spital	0
14. all centres	147

We cordially thank...



all **study team members** - it was a pleasure to meet most of you at our training days held on April 1st and August 7th 2014 in Basel;

the **investigators** who joined the first investigator meeting in Interlaken (June 12th 2014). Our discussions helped to shape solutions for several relevant problems (e.g., recruitment strategies).

The **ECG core lab** at the Cardio-centro Ticino in Lugano, Dr. Giulio Conte and Prof. Dr. Angelo Auricchio: Nearly all sites are now set up and able to communicate with the core lab.

The **MRI core lab** and the **CTU** at the University Hospital Basel: Nearly all sites are set up for brain scanning; all sites are able to enter data into the Secutrial database.

We are online!

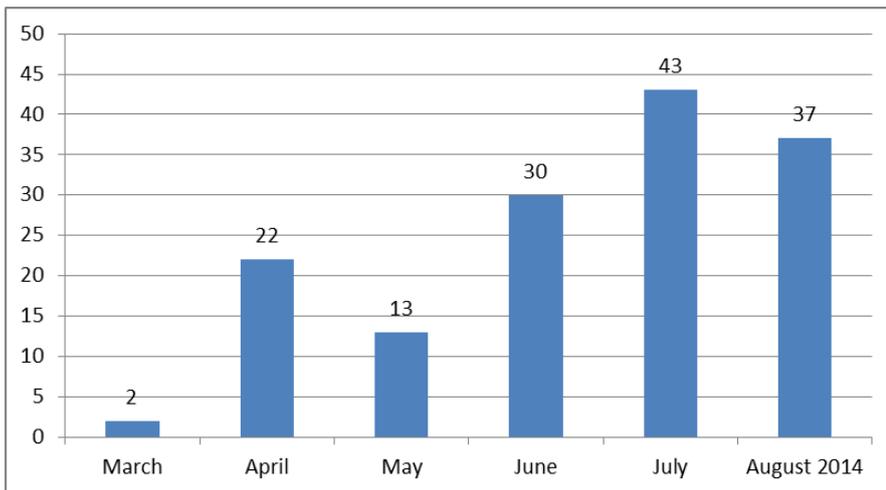
Online!

Please check our Swiss-AF Website at <http://www.swissaf.ch>

We look forward to receive suggestions for further improvements!



Patients included per month (goal: n = 100 /month)



Investigator Fee Payments:

Investigator Fee Payments are distributed on a quarterly basis. All patients who are entered in the Secutrial database at the deadline will be compensated. Furthermore, each MRI is compensated with 400 CHF.

September 30, 2014 is the first payment deadline



Swiss-AF Team Profile



Dr. Nicole Bonetti
Resident physician

In each newsletter, we will introduce a team from one of our actively participating sites. In this issue, we are pleased to present the team of the **Kantonsspital Baden**:



Prof. Dr. Jürg-Hans Beer
PI



Denise Hischer
Study coordinator

„Die Swiss-AF- Studie ist für uns sehr interessant, weil sie die somatischen und psychischen Aspekte einer Langzeiterkrankung erfasst und wertet. Diese vollständige Erfassung von bio-psycho-sozialen Elementen ist für das Studienteam eine attraktive Ergänzung zu den vielen anderen Studien, die wir zu bewältigen haben. Wir sind stolz, dass wir den 10. Patienten einschliessen durften und dass das KSB somit auf die vorderen Ränge gerückt ist. Wir freuen uns auf die weitere Herausforderung.“

(Study Team Kantonsspital Baden, Aug. 2014)



Dr. Silke Küest
Senior physician



Alexandra Grau
Study coordinator



Dr. Eva Laube
Resident physician

Hints & Facts:

- **Recruitment of non-hospitalised patients:** A letter has been provided to all centres that should facilitate recruitment of patients who were discharged before inclusion. The letter should be sent to those patients who could not be directly contacted in the hospital. If the patient does not return the response sheet he/she can be contacted by the team according to the phone protocol. The letter should not be sent to those individuals who can be directly contacted in the hospital.

- **Recruitment of inpatients:** Delayed enrolment (at least 4 weeks after any acute illness) is required according to the study protocol.
- **Patients with devices** like pacemakers (PM) are not eligible for MRI scanning but can still be enrolled in the study. In order not to over-represent device patients, PM clinics should preferably not be used for systematic screening efforts.
- **ECG data:** When starting the ECG measurement, the **patient ID** must be entered into the patient's account. The ID numbers are pre-defined and printed on the centrally prepared blood kits.

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