

memo (2009) Vol. 2: 201
 DOI 10.1007/s12254-009-0170-2
 Printed in Austria
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Central European Cooperative Oncology Group

Dear Reader,

CECOG celebrated its 10th anniversary and we would like to take this opportunity to present you with a brief review of our achievements.

Since its foundation in 1999, CECOG has evolved into a true international cooperative study group being impressively active in Central- and South-Eastern Europe and other European and non-European countries, comprising more than 150 academic centres in a total of 23 countries.

During the past years, CECOG terminated 16 clinical trials in which almost 2,900 patients have been enrolled. Currently, two protocols are open for recruitment.

CECOG/BC.1.3.005 Turandot Trial

“A randomized phase III trial of Paclitaxel plus Bevacizumab versus Capecitabine plus Bevacizumab for the first-line treatment of HER2-negative locally recurrent or metastatic breast cancer”

and

DREAM-Study

“Phase III study of optimized chemotherapy + Avastin strategy with or without Tarceva in metastatic colorectal cancer”

Terminated CECOG trials included the fields of MBC, NSCLC, pancreatic cancer, metastatic colorectal cancer, gastro-oesophageal cancer, GIST and various aspects of both maintenance and dose-dense treatment of malignant disorders. All finalized studies have been published in top or standard journals either in full-length or in abstract form.

Besides the purely scientific dimension, all our studies are aimed at enhancing the quality of life for cancer patients by identifying the most suitable and effective treatment under various conditions. All our projects are independent and are only initiated after thorough evaluations by specialists and we closely interact with our members in the CECOG-Scientific-, Advisory- and Quality Assurance Board.

CECOG has proved to be a quality-oriented body with clearly defined decision lines acknowledged and certified by both government and industry-driven audits and inspections.

Besides the conduct of clinical trials, CECOG also acts as an educational task group by organizing Consensus Development Conferences, uniting opinions of high-ranking specialists in each field from Central- and South-Eastern Europe as well as other parts of the world to establish internationally accepted consensus on minimal standards of diagnosis and medical treatment of non-small cell lung cancer, metastatic breast cancer and metastatic colon cancer. Moreover, CECOG is proud to be the responsible organizer of the Skeletal Care Initiative. With this approach, we believe to have made a contribution to an improvement in medical care of patients not only in our geographical area, which has impressively gained importance, but also in the international oncological community in other parts of the world.

For the information of all CECOG activities, you are invited to regularly visit our homepage under www.cecog.org.

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