The Nopho-European Study on Cerebellar Mutism Syndrome (CMS)

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CMS-06. THE NOPHO-EUROPEAN STUDY ON CEREBELLAR MUTISM SYNDROME (CMS)
Morten Wibroe1, Shivaram Avula2, Johan Cappelen3, Charlotte Castor4, Niels Clausen5, Irene Devenney6, Greg Fellows7, Pernilla Grillner7, Ramneek Gupta8, Bengt Gustavsson9, Mats Heyman7, Stefan Holm10, Atte Karppinen11, Rosita Kiudeliene12, Tuula Lönnqvist9, Stephen Lowis13, Conor Mallucci1, Anna Mathiasen1, Per Nyman14, Karsten Nysom15, Joarn Poska16, Barry Pizer1, David Rued17, Magnus Sabel18, Astrid Sehested19, Magnus Schmiegelow11, Ingrid Tonning-Olsson4, Ingrid Kristin Torsvik13, Kirsten van Baarsen19, Mia Westerholm-Ormio1, Barbara Zetterqvist2, and Marianne Juhler1;
1University Hospital Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark; 2Alder Hey Children’s Hospital, Liverpool, UK; 3St Olavs University Hospital, Trondheim, Norway; 4Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden; 5Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Göteborg, Sweden; 6Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen, Norway; 7Karolinska University Hospital, Solna, Sweden; 8Technical University of Denmark, Trondhein, Norway; 9Hospital of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences Kauno Klinikos, Kaunas, Lithuania; 10Tampere University Hospital, Tampere, Finland; 11Children Brain Tumour Research Centre, Nottingham, UK; 12University Hospital of Umeå, Umeå, Sweden; 13University Hospital of Tampere, Tampere, Finland; 14BarnReHab Skåne, Lund, Sweden; 15BarnReHab Ska˚ne, Lund, Sweden; 16Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Göteborg, Sweden; 17Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen, Norway; 18Radboud University Medical Centre, Nijmegen, The Netherlands; 19Children Brain Tumour Research Centre, Nottingham, UK; 20Kuopio University Hospital, Kuopio, Finland; 21Bristol Royal Children’s Hospital, Bristol, UK

BACKGROUND: The cerebellar mutism syndrome (CMS) is one of the most disabling late effects after neurosurgery for a posterior fossa tumour in childhood. The reported incidences vary substantially in previous studies. AIMS: Pathophysiology is unknown, but damage to cerebello-thalamo-cerebral circuits is likely. The study focuses on the risk factors for development and severity of CMS including surgery (approaches, techniques and tissue and vascular damage, re-operation) and host genome variants. METHODS: Multicentre study developed as a NOPHO collaborative study coordinated from Righospitalet, Copenhagen with online data registration and database management at Karolinska, Stockholm and quarterly online participant meetings. Registration includes clinical data and speech samples collected preoperatively and at four defined postoperative points for the subsequent 12 months. Therapy, including neurosurgery, is by local standards. A blood sample for genetic analysis is collected from all patients. Imaging is collected and reviewed centrally. RESULTS: The study aims to recruit 550 children. It opened in five Nordic and Baltic countries during 2014/2015; in the Netherlands in February 2016 and will open in the UK during 2016. Two German centres will join in 2017. The target accrual of 550 patients will be reached by the end of 2018. As of February 2016, 67 patients have been included from 12 centres. Mutism has occurred in 7 cases. CONCLUSION: The study will be the largest prospective international study on CMS to date, and the first one to 1) systematically register surgery, use of steroids, standardized speech samples and 2) to investigate the influence of host genome.