

Regarding:

NORDIC-BTC-01. Neoadjuvant chemotherapy in patients with biliary tract carcinomas.

The NORDIC-BTC trial is an investigator-initiated trial to investigate the effect of chemotherapy prior to surgery for biliary tract cancer (BTC). BTC is a relatively rare form of cancer with approximately 1000 patients diagnosed every year in the Nordic countries combined. The five year survival rate is only about 10%, so new treatment strategies are needed.

Chemotherapy prior to surgery increases the chance of curing a number of cancer types, but this has not yet been demonstrated for BTC. Therefore, we initially planned to include 50 Nordic patients in a phase 2 trial and continue with a phase 3 trial, if we were able to recruit the planned number of patients.

NORDIC-BTC included five Danish and Swedish specialized sites (sites where both surgery could be performed and chemotherapy could be administered), but unfortunately only eight patients were included between 2014 and 2021, all from Odense University Hospital.

Therefore, we decided to terminate the trial in 2021 due to insufficient recruitment of patients.