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25 November 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Acute PresentatiOn of CoLorectal Cancer: an internatiOnal snapshot (APOLLO)

I am writing to give further information about the “Acute PresentatiOn of CoLorectal Cancer: an internatiOnal snapshot (APOLLO)”. The study is coordinated by the Student Audit and Research in Surgery (STARSurg) collaborative and the European Students Research Collaborative (EuroSurg), research collaboratives based at the University of Birmingham, a public research university in the United Kingdom.

No sensitive or identifiable data will be collected on the study REDCap database; the patient’s clinical team will only upload anonymised data. The security of the study REDCap database system is governed by the policies of the University of Birmingham, UK, in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). The study will be conducted at collaborating sites in accordance with the country-specific data protection requirements. Once data collection is complete, the electronic research files containing anonymised data will be stored on secure non-networked desktop computers for up to 25 years, in line with current regulations. Access will be restricted to the researchers themselves. Personal data will remain securely at local hospitals. Access to data will be restricted: each individual collaborator entering data for APOLLO will have their own username and password, and will have access to data from their hospital only. Each patient will be allocated a unique study number at entry. The central research team will not have any access to patient identifiable data. All communication will use the unique study number as the identifier. All data will be analysed and reported in summary format. No individual will be identifiable. The anonymised data generated by the study will be held centrally at the University of Birmingham UK.

Given that no sensitive or identifiable data will be collected and this study is classified as an audit in the UK, data transfer agreements are not usually needed for this type of studies.

Yours faithfully,

Sivesh Kamarajah, BMedSci MBChB MRCS
STARSurg Senior Lead
On behalf of the APOLLO Study Steering Group