SOP: Substudies and subsequent publications

Version	Author(s)	Date	Changes	Approved by
1.0	Johanne Juul Petersen Mathias Lühr Hansen Caroline Kamp	13/11-24	Initial version	Steering Committee

Content

Approval of substudies and publication plan

All principal investigators are allowed to plan and conduct substudies and subsequent publications based on SafeBoosC-IIIv trial data. However, the substudy must be approved by the Steering Committee 'up-front'.

Substudies encompass secondary studies and ancillary studies. A secondary study draws solely on data from the SafeBoosC-IIIv database, while ancillary studies draw on data from the SafeBoosC-IIIv database, but also include data (additional variables or outcomes) that are not included in the original SafeBoosC-IIIv database.

If principal investigators or members of the Steering Committee intend to perform a substudy, a description of the study can be sent to caroline.kamp@ctu.dk before the substudy meeting on 5 February 2025 at 20:30 CET (deadline for submissions: 29 January 2025). We encourage that all intended substudies are presented at this meeting, but we also acknowledge the relatively short deadline and that we are in the early phase of the trial. Therefore, substudies planned later in the trial phase will also be evaluated by the Steering Committee. The time and date for a second meeting have not yet been determined.

The description of the study shall, as a minimum, include:

- A specific, well-defined quantified hypothesis.
- A power calculation (see openepi.com for an online power calculation tool) for the primary outcome.

The investigator(s) shall present the study at the substudy meeting on 5 February 2025 at 20:30 CET.

After the online meeting, the Steering Committee will discuss the suggested studies and develop a 'substudy and publication plan'.

The publication plan must include the following information for each study:

1) Title
2) Hypothesis
3) Expected date of registration of the study protocol on clinicaltrials.gov
4) Expected date of manuscript submission
5) First author (investigator responsible for the study and publication)
6) Additional authors

Authorship and collaborative investigators

Authorship and collaborative investigators on publications shall be determined as below:

1) If the principal investigators only use data from participants within their own NICUs, they are not obliged to invite other principal investigators to collaborate/co-author the publications and can do as they wish.
2) If the principal investigators use data from other NICUs, principal investigators from such NICUs shall be invited to participate as non-author collaborators or co-authors.

Non-author collaborators will not participate in the working process of the substudy nor in writing the manuscript but will be mentioned by name in the publication as part of the 'SafeBoosC-IIIv investigator group' and traceable on PubMed. Thus, these investigators will be recognised for contributing with data.

Co-authors will appear in the byline. However, adherent to the Vancouver criteria, a co- authorship requires significant contribution and active involvement in all aspects of the substudy.

Data management and publications

For secondary studies where only data from the SafeBoosC-IIIv database will be used, Copenhagen Trial Unit will offer to do the statistics, to avoid additional data transfer agreements. If the primary investigator(s) of a secondary study intends to do the statistics themselves, it is possible that a data transfer agreement must be made. Following this, a copy of the necessary dataset will be produced, data will be anonymised (i.e., participant ID are removed) before the transfer from Copenhagen to the responsible investigator. To reduce the risk of re-identification of children, NICU identification numbers are also removed, and gestational age and birth weight are recoded into binary variables. This is necessary to honour parental consent and the trial protocol.

For ancillary studies that needs additional data than those found in the SafeBoosC-IIIv database, Copenhagen Trial Unit will offer to setup a separate module in the eCRF in OpenClinica for data entries related to the specific ancillary study (e.g., a module on renal outcomes for an ancillary study evaluating the effects of the intervention on renal function). This separate module will only be visible to sites participating in the ancillary study. This means that data analyses can be handled in Copenhagen by Copenhagen Trial Unit, thus avoiding additional data handling agreements.

If the primary investigator(s) of a secondary study wants to do the statistics by themselves, or it is not possible to create a separate ancillary study module in OpenClinica, a copy of the necessary dataset will be made and transferred to the primary investigators by the same process as described above for secondary studies.

Publication

Manuscripts based on substudies should not be submitted for publication before the primary outcome results of SafeBoosC-IIIv are published.

Data points available for substudies

For data points in eCRF, see ‘SOP: List of data needed for eCRF entry’.