



Red Blood Cell Disorders Committee

<http://www.bhs.be>

MEETING APRIL 25, 2013

Partners present:

Laurence Dedeken, Cristina Epalza, Veerle Labarque, Olivier Ketelslegers, Marie-Françoise Dresse, Angela del Giudice, Larissa Tomme, Marie-Agnes Azerad, Phu-Quoc Lé, Didier N'Gay, Jonathan Brauner, Lisa Balepa, Béatrice Gulbis

- Recommendations to be reviewed : follow-up of pregnancy (see our document published in 2006 – Lisa Ballepa - Samantha Benghiat and previous authors (C. Kirkpatrick – P Barlow – A Kentos)

[Presentation by Lisa Balepa \(Annex 1\)](#)

Several unanswered questions:

- Medications to be administered with caution: steroids, prostaglandins
- During gestation, benefit of prophylactic transfusions in uncomplicated SCD? Lack of randomized multicentre study
- Optimal timing of delivery and necessity of prophylactic transfusions?

We have the opportunity to edit those recommendations in collaboration with our French colleagues (Annex 2). The latter propose to participate in collecting data of our pregnant SCD patients in view to answer several of our questions (see Samantha Benghiat for follow-up).

- New recommendations on anaesthesia. The President of the Society of Anaesthesia and Resuscitation of Belgium (Luc Barvais) was contacted. A link with their website should be implemented and an announcement can be given at their annual meeting (this year November 10). Cristina Epalza and Samantha Benghiat

[Presentation by Cristina Epalza \(Annex 3\)](#)

Several unanswered questions:

- Recommendations for management of low risk surgery in SS Hb patients
- Recommendations for SC Hb patients
- Recommendation for SS patient with Hb >9g/dl (few patients in TAPS study)
- Existing recommendation for Hb AS patients?

- Follow-up of the Belgian SCD bio bank and research projects. Jonathan Brauner.

[The new project is presented \(Annex 4\).](#)

[The alterations proposed by the interested groups have been taken into account.](#)



The final convention has been sent.

- Annual event: SCD day June 19 – What do we organize in each Institution? All participants.
The “Liège” group presented their project. A meeting dedicated to all the health members of the “Hôpital de la Citadelle”.
All the participants proposed to present a poster in each of our Institutions in view to inform the public and our colleagues. Angela Del Giudice is preparing the poster.
Didier N’Gay proposed also a evening event (June 14) in the embassies of Haïti and Gambia.(Annex 5)
- Phase 1b study on haptoglobin. Brief presentation by B. Gulbis.
- BHS meeting, January 2014
A question from Rik Schots, our new president:
"On the occasion of the BHS meeting in 2014, I want to introduce a "Highlight on RBC disorders". There are 60-90 min, so 2 presentations. I propose that a Belgian specialist presents a "state of the art" and invites an international authority (Europe) to a "spotlight" on a very hot subject. Obviously topics that may interest a "large" audience."
This is an opportunity to present our expertise on RBC disorders.
Of course the hottest topic in our group is related to SCD.
One of the most “universal” and hottest topic might be related to therapy.
Proposition to be discussed:
 - Stem cell transplantation for SCD in Belgium – Alice Ferster Team
 - Fetal haemoglobin: genetics to molecular mechanisms to targeted therapy – Swee Lay Thein – UK
 - Gene therapy – Yves Beuzard – France or Eliane Gluckman
- Proposition from André Delannoy:
 - SCD Biobank (+ national registry)?
 - RBC transfusions:
 - Transfusion Strategies for Acute Upper Gastrointestinal Bleeding – French group
 - Or
 - Significant reduction of red blood cell transfusion requirements by changing from a double-unit to a single-unit transfusion policy in patients receiving intensive chemotherapy or stem cell transplantation – Swiss group
 - *PNH has been presented in 2013.*
- PNH. Recommendations for treatment. To be discussed.
Postponed.
- ...