



EMPIRE
(IPF)

European **M**ultipartner **I**PF **R**egistry 9th international SC meeting

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Project management team



Karel Hejduk

Senior PM



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Project manager



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Jakub Gregor

Website, quality control



Lucie Martykánová

Economics, administration



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Current state of the registry

Representation of countries in the EMPIRE registry

11 countries, 51 centres

- Czech Republic (17 centres)
- Hungary (6 centres)
- Poland (9 centres)
- Slovakia (6 centres)
- Serbia (4 centres) (1 new centre)
- Turkey (1 centre)
- Croatia (2 centres) (1 terminated cooperation)
- Israel (2 centres) (1 new centre)
- Bulgaria (1 centre)
- Austria (2 centres s) (1 new centre)
- Macedonia (1 centre)



New countries/centres interested in participation

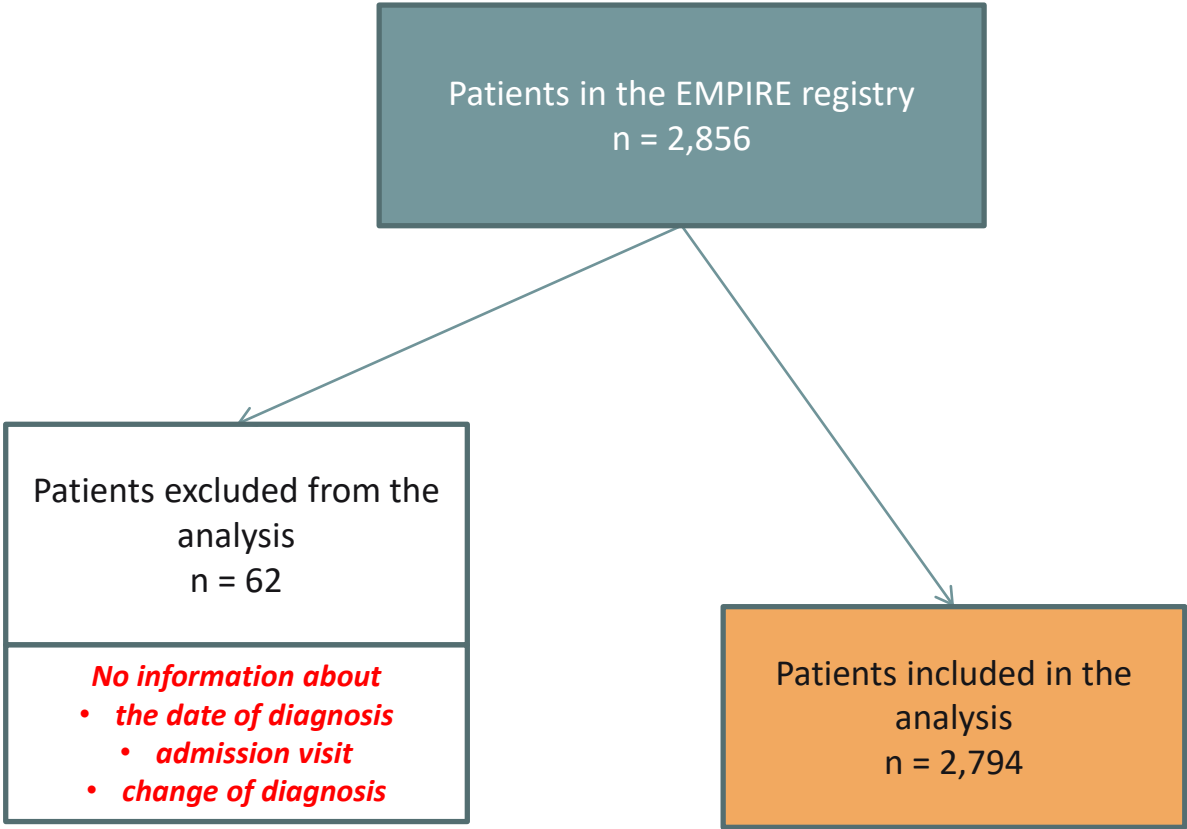
Country	Comment
Poland	1 new centre (Lublin) will join the registry (EC approval, contract sent)
Hungary	3 new centres wish to join the registry (EC approval, contract sent)
Romania	Negotiation with Irina Strambu about possibility to join the registry (5 centres, negotiation underway)
Latvia	Latvia would like to join EMPIRE (core information, documents sent to Alvilis Krams)
Turkey	Centres from the Turkish Respiratory Society (contact from Prof. Jovanovic, negotiation underway)



Number of valid patients by countries in the EMPIRE registry

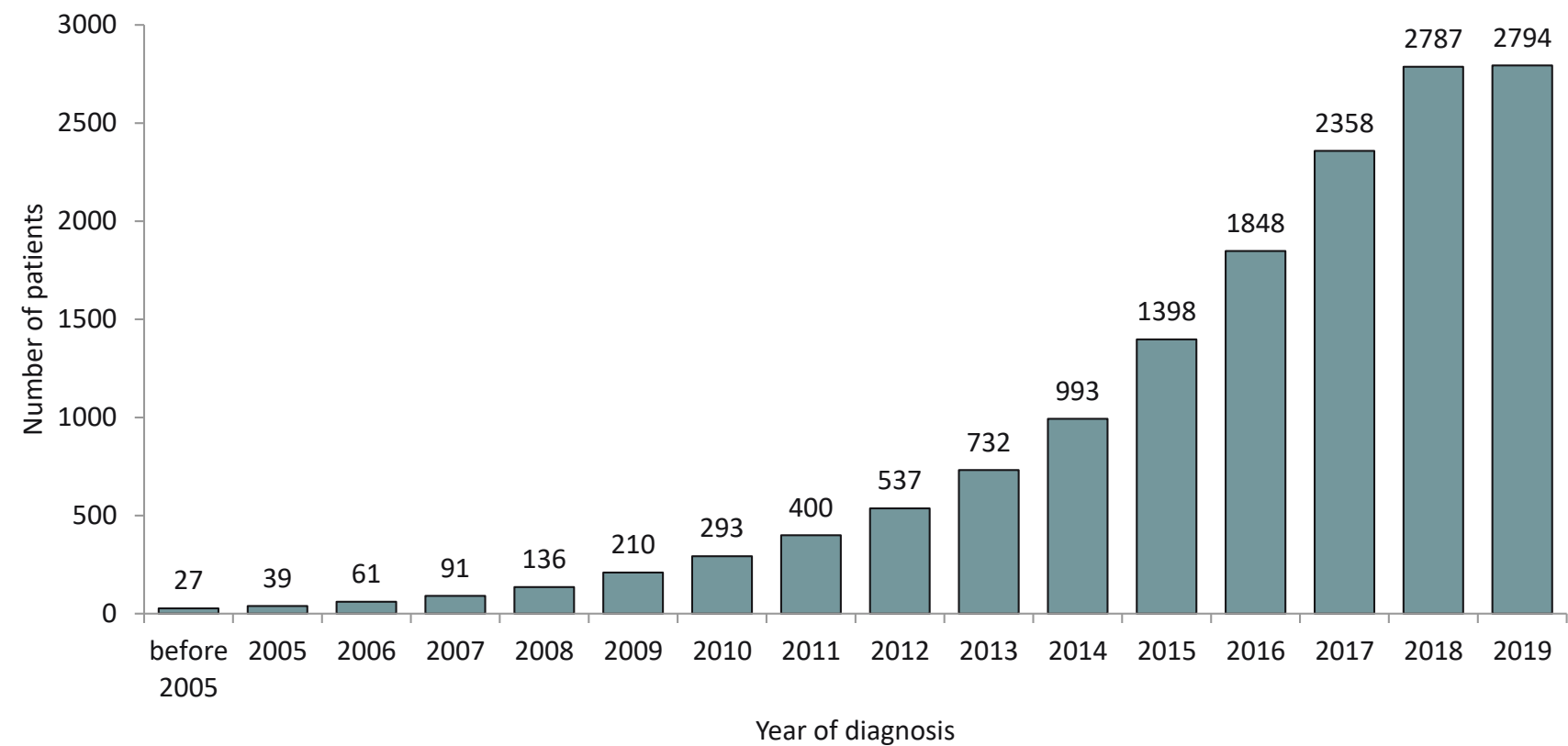
n = 2,794

	Number of patients
Czech Republic	933 (33.4%)
Turkey	518 (18.5%)
Poland	496 (17.8%)
Hungary	245 (8.8%)
Slovakia	191 (6.8%)
Israel	150 (5.4%)
Serbia	107 (3.8%)
Croatia	81 (2.9%)
Austria	59 (2.1%)
Bulgaria	14 (0.5%)



Number of newly diagnosed patients

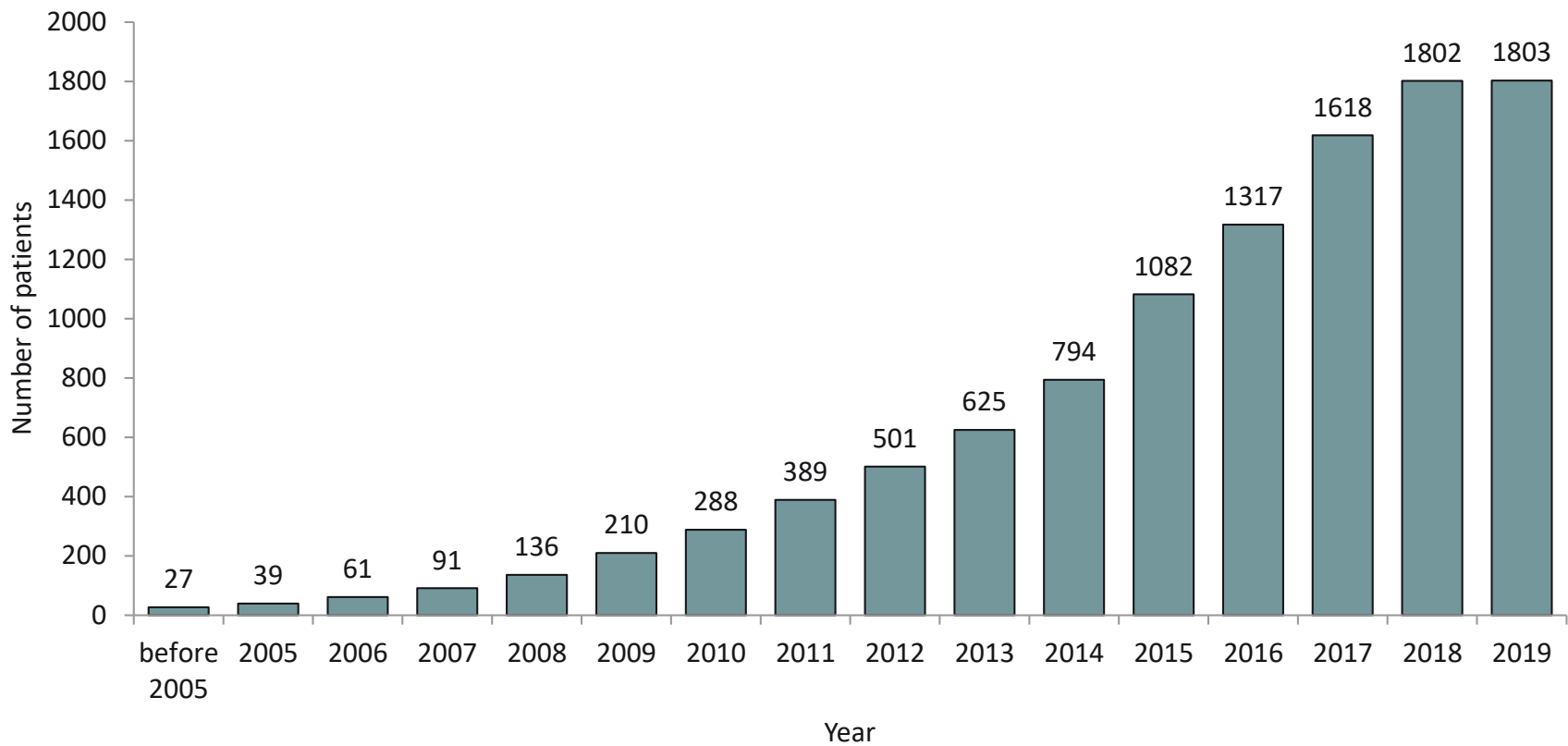
n = 2,794



Number of monitored patients

n = 2,794

Year	Number of terminated follow-ups (with known date)
2010	5
2011	6
2012	25
2013	71
2014	92
2015	117
2016	215
2017	209
2018	245
2019	6
Total	991



The number of patients in the EMPIRE registry monitored in a given year is reduced by the number of patients with terminated follow-up due to death (n = 653), lung transplantation (n = 45), patients lost from follow-up (n = 272), other (n = 36). The date of death is unknown in 15 patients.



Contracts with centres

- **From April 2018 only contracts with the centres/hospitals are possible.**
- According to the new regulations that the Masaryk University has implemented and anticorruption law of the Czech Republic it is no longer possible to make direct agreements with data managers (investigators).
- Contract templates have been sent to all centres; the centres are obliged to pay the remuneration to the data managers.
- **Four reminders** have been sent to date; unfortunately **some centres have not responded** at all.
- Please try to remind it to the centres in your country. If the contracts are not signed, the registry will not work and we will not be able to send payments.



Overview of contracts

Country	No. of centres with signed contract	No. of centres without signed contract
Czech Republic	8	9
Hungary	1	5
Poland	3	6
Slovakia	3	3
Serbia	2	2
Turkey	0	1
Croatia	1	1
Israel	1	1
Bulgaria	1	0
Austria	2	0
Macedonia	1	0
Total	23	28



News in the registry

- Informed consents (IC) have been translated into local languages and are available on the project website and in the database itself (together with local versions of IC).
- Meeting minutes and presentations from previous SC meetings have been uploaded on the website.

Homepage FAQ Participating centres **Information background** Publications Guarantee Data overview Contact

Information background > Internal project documents, meeting minutes

Internal project documents, meeting minutes

Authentication for users from participating centres

Authentication for users from participating centres – login is the same as the login to the registry

Username:

Password:

Information background > Internal project documents, meeting minutes

Internal project documents, meeting minutes

Registered user: Filip Kňažek [[log out](#)]

Rules for roles and processes in the EMPIRE registry

- [Project protocol](#) (PDF file, 460 kB)
- [Ensuring professional guarantees, roles and processes in the operation of clinical registries and databases for study of European MultiPartner IPF Registry](#) (PDF file, 180 kB)
- [Analysis specification](#) (DOCX file, 180 kB)

Minutes from meetings of the Steering Committee

- Paris, 15/9/2018: [meeting minutes, presentation, photo](#)
- Budapest, 15/4/2018: [meeting minutes, presentation](#)
- Milan, 9/9/2017: [meeting minutes, presentation](#)
- Cracow, 23/3/2017: [meeting minutes, presentation](#)
- London, 3/9/2016: [meeting minutes, presentation](#)
- Prague, 10/3/2016: [meeting minutes, presentation](#)
- Amsterdam, 26/9/2015: [meeting minutes, presentation](#)
- Prague, 10/12/2014: [meeting minutes, presentation](#)

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Homepage FAQ Participating centres **Information background** Publications Guarantee Data overview Contact

Entry to registry

Information background

1. Introduction

Data security within the registry is of key importance, and a special attention must be paid to this issue. Data of the EMPIRE project are stored in a database system which was originally based on a modified version of TrialDB system^[1-3]. This on-line system has undergone changes in layout and structure, which has made data entry even more comfortable, while security measures have been maintained at the same level as before.

The system has been designed as a robust base for collection of large amount of data in clinical trials and/or clinical registries, is fully customized to the structure of the EMPIRE project. The on-line application is accessible to users via the internet browser. The security of individual records within the registry is guaranteed via de-identified data collection. Each patient's identity is replaced with a number (ID) which does not allow any backward identification of that person. The unequivocal identification of patient is only known to the attending physician or to an authorized health care professional.

The main advantages of this system involve centralized administration, uniform appearance of forms for data collection in all registries and easy development of new, extending functions.

2. Basic characteristics of the system

- The system is very user-friendly: all data are entered via web forms which are analogical to paper collection (classical CRF).
- The data can be entered into the registry from any computer connected to internet and equipped with the browser MS Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher (it must support the encrypted communication with a 128-bit SSL protocol).
- No additional software needs to be installed on the client's computer.
- Only authorized persons have access to the registry, using their login and password.
- Data in the registry are de-identified, i.e. the patients' records are kept under codes (ID) which exclude any chance that the person might be identified. In this way, the system meets all valid rules on the protection of personal data.
- All data transfer is encrypted in order to prevent a potential abuse during the transfer.
- All submitted data are collected in a central computer - server, where they are safely stored in a database (administered in the ORACLE 9i system).
- Data can be exported for authorized users as a local database for further processing.
- Users can print the filled forms or save them in a local computer in the MS Excel format.

Internal project documents, meeting minutes

(only for users from participating centres, accessible after login)

Project documents

- [User guide \(EN\)](#) (PDF file, 800 kB)
- [Informed consent \(EN\)](#) (PDF file, 160 kB)

Bulgary

- [Informed consent \(BG\)](#) (PDF file, 180 kB)

Croatia

- [Informed consent \(HR\)](#) (PDF file, 43 kB)
- [Supplemental information for patients \(HR\)](#) (PDF file, 54 kB)
- [Ethical Committee approval \(HR\)](#) (JPG file, 200 kB)

Czech Republic

- [Informed consent \(CZ\)](#) (PDF file, 190 kB)
- [Ethical Committee approval \(CZ\)](#) (PDF file, 140 kB)



Current User: Hana (Admin) Zelinková (ZELINKOVA)

Current project: EMPIRE

Time to log out: 59:49

Search Patient

Add New Patient

Tools

Search patient

Form

Patient ID	
Date of birth (dd.mm.yyyy)	
Sex	v
Physician	v
Site	v
Validation result	v
Training patient	v
Search	

- Reports
- Documents
- Helpdesk
- Messages
- Change Password

Last opened patient

Patient ID
IPF-XX00-004
IPF-CZ05-041
IPF-CZ02-046
IPF-CZ11-042
IPF-CZ01-009



Technical provider: Institute of Biostatistics and Analyses LF MU
Helpdesk support: empire@iba.muni.cz



Current User: Hana (Admin) Zelinková (ZELINKOVA)

Current project: EMPIRE

Time to log out: 59:49

Search Patient

Add New Patient

Tools

Documents

- Protocol (EN)
- BG - Informed consent
- BG - EQ-5D-3L
- CZ - Informed consent
- CZ - Validation guide
- CZ - EQ-5D-3L
- EN - Informed consent
- EN - Validation guide
- EN - EQ-5D-3L
- GE - EQ-5D-3L
- HR - Informed consent
- HR - EQ-5D-3L
- HU - Informed consent
- HU - Patient information
- HU - EQ-5D-3L
- IL - Informed consent
- IL - EQ-5D-3L (Arabic)



News in the registry

- Validation excel tables sent – physicians can find here precisely which information is missing, incorrect, unknown, not logical etc. in the data they enter into the database. We would like to ask them to complete all of the missing/incorrect information for their patients.
- The patients with missing IC should sign it; a new version of the IC should be used!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
PATIENT_ID	nationality	SITE	NAME	informed_consent	date_diagnosis	date_admission_visit	date_death	reason_death	date_end	height	weight	weight_greater_height	duration_symptoms	duration_greater_200	familiar_ipf	nyha	crepit
IPF-SK05-002	SK	Levice - Ambulancia pneumológie a ftizeológie	Plutinský Ján					Missing									
IPF-SK05-004	SK	Levice - Ambulancia pneumológie a ftizeológie	Plutinský Ján														Missing
IPF-SK05-005	SK	Levice - Ambulancia pneumológie a ftizeológie	Plutinský Ján														Missing
IPF-SK05-006	SK	Levice - Ambulancia pneumológie a ftizeológie	Plutinský Ján														Missing
IPF-SK05-007	SK	Levice - Ambulancia pneumológie a ftizeológie	Plutinský Ján														Missing
IPF-SK05-010	SK	Levice - Ambulancia pneumológie a ftizeológie	Plutinský Ján					Missing									

- De-identification of patients – the FULL DATE OF BIRTH and INITIALS of all patients in the database have been replaced by MONTH and YEAR of birth of the patients. It is possible to input the whole date of birth into the database (day/month/year); however, 10 minutes after that the system will automatically change the day from the date into number 01 (meaning 1st day of the month). Information on month and year (01/month/year) stay as they are in all patients.

↑ Patient ID ↓	↑ Site ↓	↑ Date of birth (dd.mm.yyyy) ↓
IPF-XX01-001	CBA2	01.01.1990
IPF-XX01-002	CBA2	01.01.1965
IPF-XX01-003	CBA2	01.06.1982
IPF-XX01-004	CBA2	01.02.1950
IPF-XX01-005	CBA2	01.06.1975
IPF-XX01-006	CBA2	01.01.1900
IPF-XX01-007	CBA2	01.02.1940
IPF-XX01-008	CBA2	01.01.1970
IPF-XX01-009	CBA2	01.09.1980
IPF-XX01-010	CBA2	01.02.1990
IPF-XX01-011	CBA2	01.06.1963
IPF-XX01-012	CBA2	01.07.1947
IPF-XX01-013	CBA2	01.01.2000
IPF-XX01-014	CBA2	01.01.2000
IPF-XX01-015	CBA2	01.07.1960
IPF-XX01-016	CBA2	01.01.1950



Financial support

- After a meeting in January 2019, **Boehringer Ingelheim RCV and Roche Global agreed on supporting the EMPIRE Registry in the years 2019–2021**; contract preparation is currently underway.
- Since December 2017, an active contract with **Roche CZ** has been effective, which has supported an IIS study (financial support of the Czech part of the registry) led by Prof. Vašáková till the end of 2020. **This contract will be probably terminated by the new contract with Roche Global.**
- In cooperation with the Roche Global an IIS study *Assessing pirfenidone effectiveness in possible UIP and possible/probable IPF patients and characterizing natural history of IPF progression* is being prepared in order to support the registry. The contract/protocol/SAP is currently being finalized.





Overview of SC members' votes since previous meeting

Mortality and progression free survival in the IPF patients. Real world data from EMPIRE registry

- An abstract for ERS 2019 by Prof. Vašáková
- Data from the whole EMPIRE registry
- Hypothesis is that the patients on antifibrotic treatment have longer total and progression-free (i.e. decline of 10% VC or 15% TLC_o compared to the initial value – at the treatment initiation) survival than those on any other treatment modalities. This effect also depends on the initial VC and TLC_o values (i.e. at the time of treatment initiation).
- Proposal approved by all SC members
- Prof. Kjaeva and prof. Studnicka did not react



Removal of stopping rules in the Czech Republic

- IBA MU can prepare analyses from the whole EMPIRE data as a basis for the cost-effectiveness analyses, according to which the stopping rules for IPF treatment may be removed by the regulatory authority in the Czech Republic. The analyses will be provided to the Roche company.
- The analyses may be used for publication
- Approved by all SC members



Participation of BI, Roche, Prof. Suissa and Dr Walsh in SC meeting

- A vote on the participation of EMPIRE supporters (BI, Roche and external professionals with whom we cooperate – Prof. Suissa and Dr Walsh) in the SC meeting in Geneva
- Approved by all SC members
- Prof. Kjaeva did not react





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Outcomes & publications

Published and accepted articles

- **Effect of pirfenidone on lung function progression and survival: 5-yr experience from a real-life IPF cohort from the Czech EMPIRE registry**
Lead author: Dr. Monika Žurková
Published in *Respiratory Research*
- **Long-term effects and adverse events of nintedanib therapy in IPF Patients with functionally advanced disease**
Lead author: Dr. Eniko Barczy (Hungary)
Accepted for publication in *Advances in Therapy*



Submitted articles

- **Prognostic factors in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis: The European MultiPartner IPF Registry (EMPIRE) from Central and Eastern Europe**

Lead author: Tanja Tran

Submitted for publication in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine with the deadline on 1 March 2019



Manuscripts in preparation

- **Comorbidity in IPF patients from EMPIRE registry (European Multipartner IPF registry)**
Lead author: Dragana Jovanovic
Currently at BI – waiting for an external medical writing organization to give an opinion
- **Bleeding risk in Central European IPF patients treated with different anticoagulants**
Lead author: Prof. Veronika Müller
Currently sent to BI, looking for a journal for publication
- **On genetic polymorphisms in Czech patients**
Dr. Doubková, Dr. Žurková, doc. Kriegrová



Submitted abstracts for ERS

- **Long-term overall survival and progression-free survival in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis treated by pirfenidone or nintedanib or their switch. Real world data from the EMPIRE registry**
Lead author: Prof. Vašáková
- **Differences between ANCA positive and negative lung fibrosis cases without vasculitis**
Lead author: Prof. Mogulkoc (Turkish patients only)



Analyses underway

- An analysis to support removal of stopping rules in the Czech Republic
- A preliminary report (a simpler version of the summary report) which will be posted on website
- 3 analyses aimed at genetic polymorphism in Czech patients from EMPIRE IPF Registry
 - Analyses are focused on drug metabolism, MUC5B polymorphism, TERT/ TERC genes mutations,
 - Analysis for Dr. Doubková is being finished, we are waiting for parameters to be specified for the remaining 2 analyses for Dr. Lošťáková, doc. Kriegrová
- Country reports
- Assessing pirfenidone effectiveness in possible UIP and possible/probable IPF patients and characterizing natural history of IPF progression
 - IIS led by Prof. Vašáková, supported by Roche Global





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IIS proposals

IIS proposals

- Any SC member can ‘apply’ for writing a manuscript according to any IIS/analysis done – a rule **‘first come, first served’**
- **Planned IIS studies**
Any new suggestions?





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EMPIRE subprojects

HRCT

HRCT repository and data warehouse for (re)assessment of HRCT images

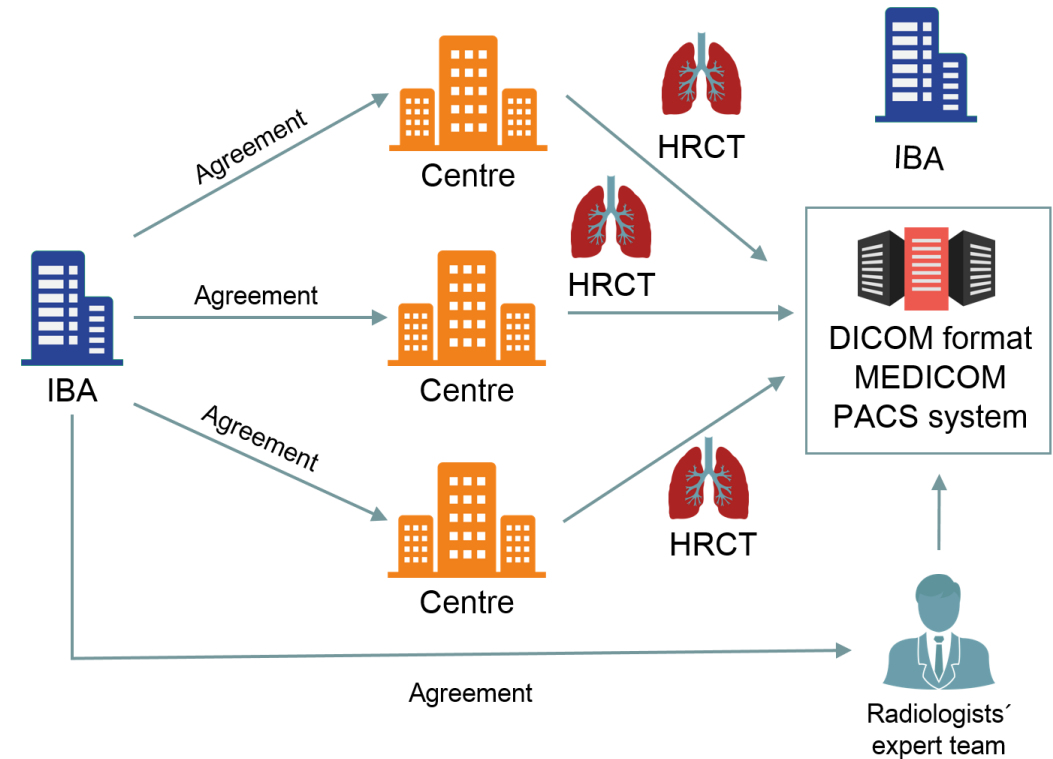
- Arranged in cooperation with a team of expert radiologists led by Dr Simon Walsh.
- Main focus will be put on the development of imaging biomarkers of early progression on the probably biggest HRCT imaging cohort in the world.
- The collected scans will be evaluated according to the new radiological criteria for the IPF diagnostics. It will correlate with patient's prognosis (mortality, decrease of VC and TLco in time and with respect to the treatment).
- HRCT images will be inter-connected with primary EMPIRE registry records (patient level links).
- There will be a retrospective and prospective data collection.
- The protocol and the budget of the subproject are completed.
- A new informed consent should be prepared.



HRCT

Prospective HRCT images evaluation

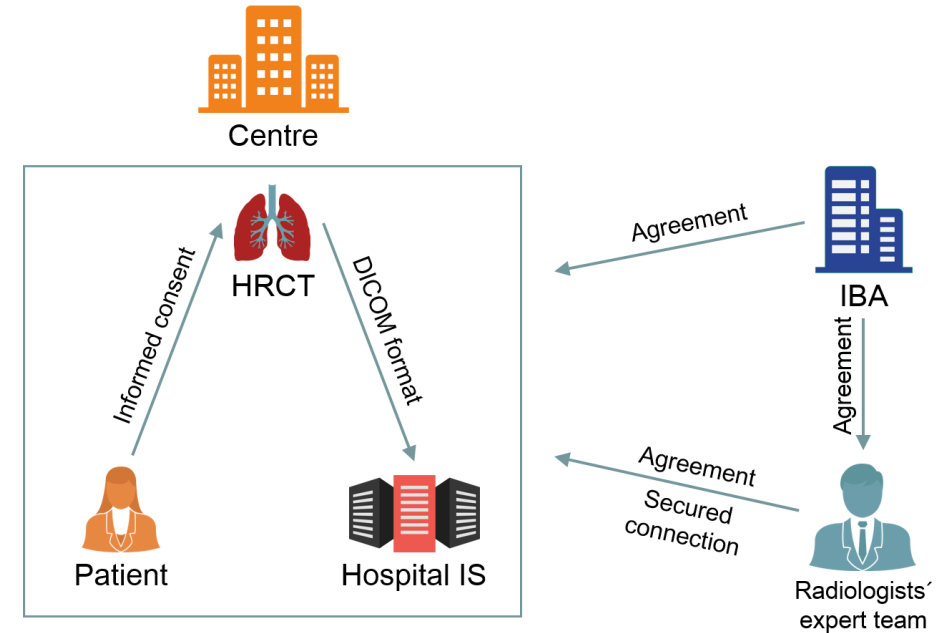
- The assessment of HRCT images of living patients and associated data processing will be performed via their collection in a centralized repository – MEDICOM – professional DICOM information PACS system (which works at expert level at Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic).
- The continuous centralization of images will be only based on a **signed informed consent of living patients**.
- As the current informed consent does not involve information about the HRCT images collection, a specific informed consent will have to be prepared and signed by patients for this purpose.



HRCT

Retrospective HRCT images evaluation

- The assessment of HRCT images of dead patients and associated data processing will be performed via direct collaboration of centres and the team of expert radiologists (and its deputies/Steering Committee members in each EMPIRE country). The expert radiologists team assessing HRCT images will contact the clinical centres directly and (based on mutual agreement) get the access to the patient's HRCT images stored as a part of their electronic medical records in a particular centre. The records should be in DICOM format (DICOM protocol). Afterwards the team of expert radiologists will assess the images. Both assessment and recording of its outcomes are managed according to rules adopted by a particular clinical centre.
- GDPR regulation is not related to dead people; therefore, it is also possible to send the HRCT images of dead patients directly to the central repository. Needs to be further discussed.



PD-L1 biomarkers

- Team of Prof. Jovanovic performed a soluble sPD-L1 test to determine concentrations in blood plasma in 23 IPF patients.
- Prof. Jovanovic has now a sufficient leftover of the platform for this sPD-L1 blood test, (500 tests (kits) for PD-L1 + 80 for SAA 1) and would be able to provide it to the EMPIRE team to have a joint project on this issue, which would be performed for free by her colleague, a biochemist Prof. Jelena Kotur.
- We are currently trying to find out ways of how to deal with the complicated logistics and transfer of biomaterial from (max) 10 different countries to Serbia – we need more details on how many samples will be sent from each hospital, what is their approximate weight etc. in order to calculate the budget.
- Protocol is currently being prepared in cooperation with prof. Jovanovic
- New informed consent for the subproject will be needed.





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Changes in eCRF

Proposal of prof. Mogulkoc

Could the options for the categorization of the HRCT appearances be updated to bring them into line with the four diagnostic categories currently recommended by ATS/ERS (usual interstitial pneumonia (UIP) pattern, probable UIP pattern, indeterminate pattern and alternative diagnosis)?

- Currently we have options in the database for HRCT pattern – UIP pattern, UIP pattern possible, Pattern inconsistent with UIP
- In the section Histopathological finding we have options – Probable UIP, Possible UIP, Unclassifiable fibrosis, Inconsistent with UIP, Not done

If we go for the change in HRCT pattern according to the new categorization, how would we deal with the patients that had the HRCT pattern in the database according to the 'old' categorization?





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**Registry rules,
contracts, payments**

Publications submission

- Prior to any written, oral or audio-visual publications (manuscript, poster, abstract, presentation) of the results they have to be sent to Boehringer Ingelheim **at least sixty (60) days in advance** (unless otherwise agreed with BI in individual cases) – you can send it to IBA and we will resend it to BI.
- To check whether all information presented/published are in line with SmPC and are compliant with their internal regulations. To protect a patentable invention or to avoid disclosure of Confidential Information, trade secrets or know-how. It is a fairly formal review of the manuscript/abstract.
- BI would like to support the publications and **help to raise their scientific value** by providing a medical writer who could add scientifically relevant supplementary information, be the advisory body for the author of the publication; they have no aim in changing the content.
- Do not forget to add a statement regarding the BI support.



Access to patients' records within centres/countries

- **Current state:** data managers/physicians from involved centres can only see records of patients from their particular centre. A guarantor from each country (SC member) can see all patients from his/her country.
- Is there a consensus to continue in this practice? Is it necessary and ethical if we do not have written consent (permission) from all centres provided?



Promotion of the registry on a larger scale

- How would the SC members like to present EMPIRE?
- Suggestion to organize a press conference about the EMPIRE project at some international congress (not necessarily ERS)
- IBA will prepare an annual report about the Registry, which will be published on the website (above-mentioned presentation – ‘simplified summary report’)
- Regular update of the website
- By the end of Q2 IBA should prepare a preliminary report about the EMPIRE Registry – it will inform about the past year (2018) and following plans (including subprojects)





Data management and statistical analysis

Data quality considerations

- Loss of observations in time is a key issue
 - decreasing statistical power
 - possible introduction of bias
- Correction of data
 - In early February validation Excel tables were sent separately to each centre.
 - The tables included information about missing or incorrect patient data in the database.
 - In order to improve the outcomes of the EMPIRE database, it is necessary to complete the invalid records with missing and/or correct data.
- Design considerations
 - statistical analysis should be planned and performed bearing in mind the limitations of real-world longitudinal data

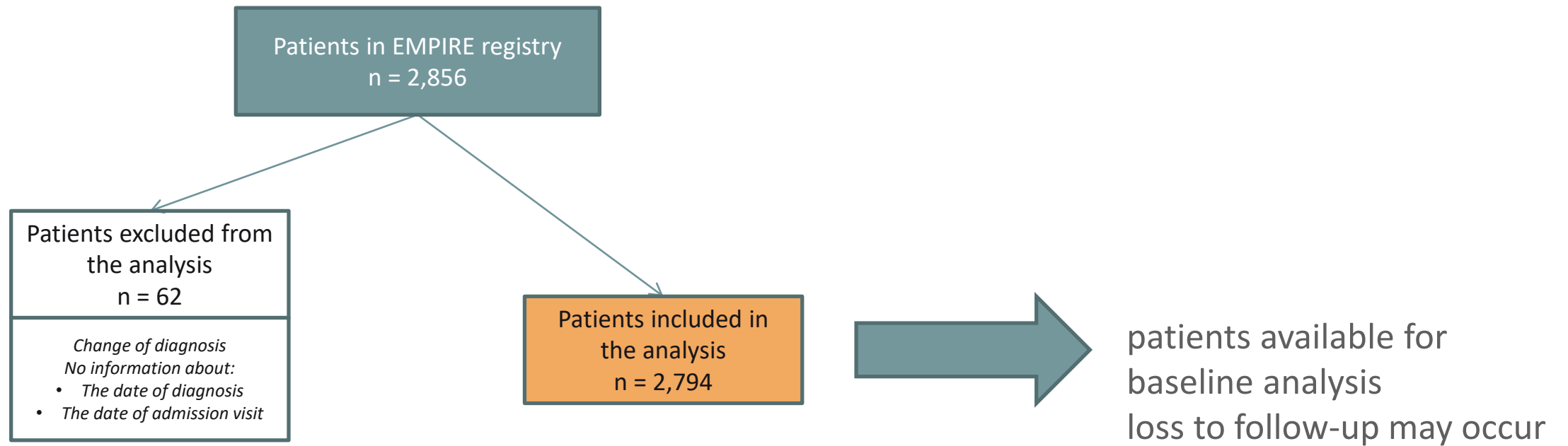


Statistical analysis considerations

- Incomplete follow-up data – the most important limitation for data analysis.
- Ways of working with follow-up data in longitudinal analysis:
 - **Analytical classification** of follow-up visits into time categories (6-month visit, 1-year visit, etc.) – problem of variability of dates of visit; completeness of follow up data is crucial
 - **Strictly defined dates of follow-up visits** (a physician selects time category of the visit **in the registry**) – clinical decision instead of analytical stratification
 - **Time to event analysis** – survival analysis; for progression defined by a change of variable between time points, the problem with follow-up data completeness and variability of dates of visits still persists
- **Three scenarios of selection of start of follow for the analysis:**
 - Starting point is the date of diagnosis
 - Starting point is the date of first visit (enrolment)
 - Starting point is the start of treatment (pirfenidone/nintedanib)
 - **Appropriate analysis setting should be considered when planning the analysis**



Analysis flow-chart (22/1/2019)

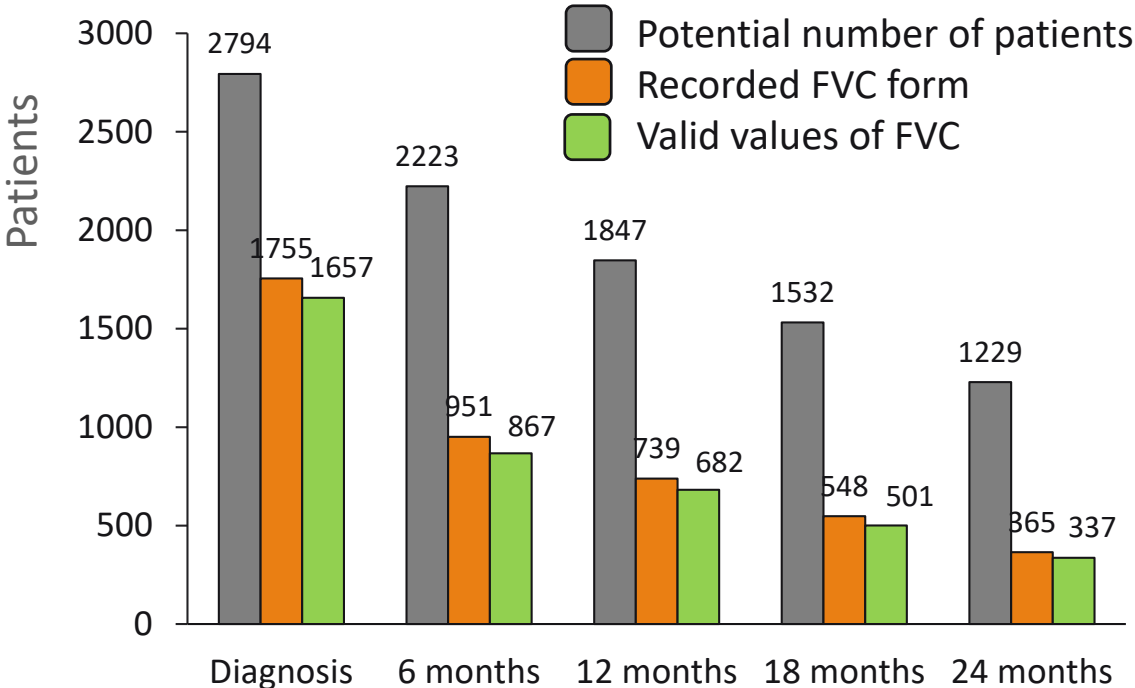


Comparison of patients suitable for analysis and theoretical number of patients

Potential number of patients is number of patients recorded in registry minus deceased patients and patients with insufficient follow-up length at given time point.

Analysis scenario: Since diagnosis

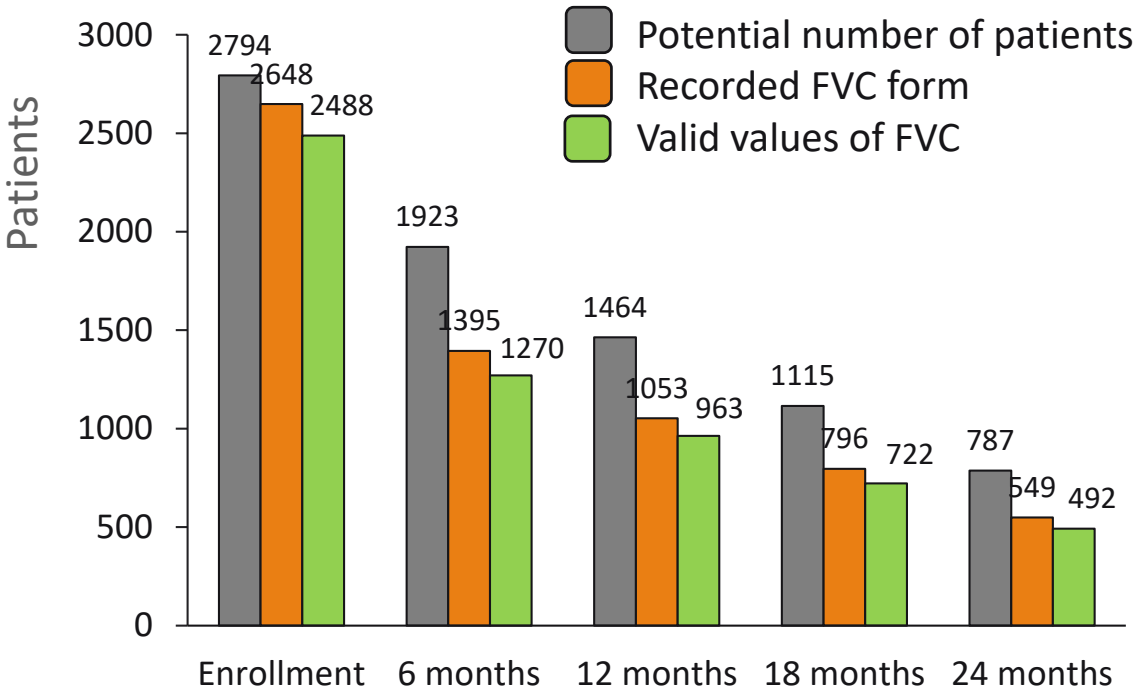
N potential	2794	2223	1847	1532	1229
Deceased	-	72	156	242	316
Short FU	-	499	791	1020	1249



Time points (time since diagnosis)

Analysis scenario: Since enrolment

N potential	2794	1923	1464	1115	787
Deceased	-	157	264	369	448
Short FU	-	714	1066	1310	1559



Time points (time since enrolment)

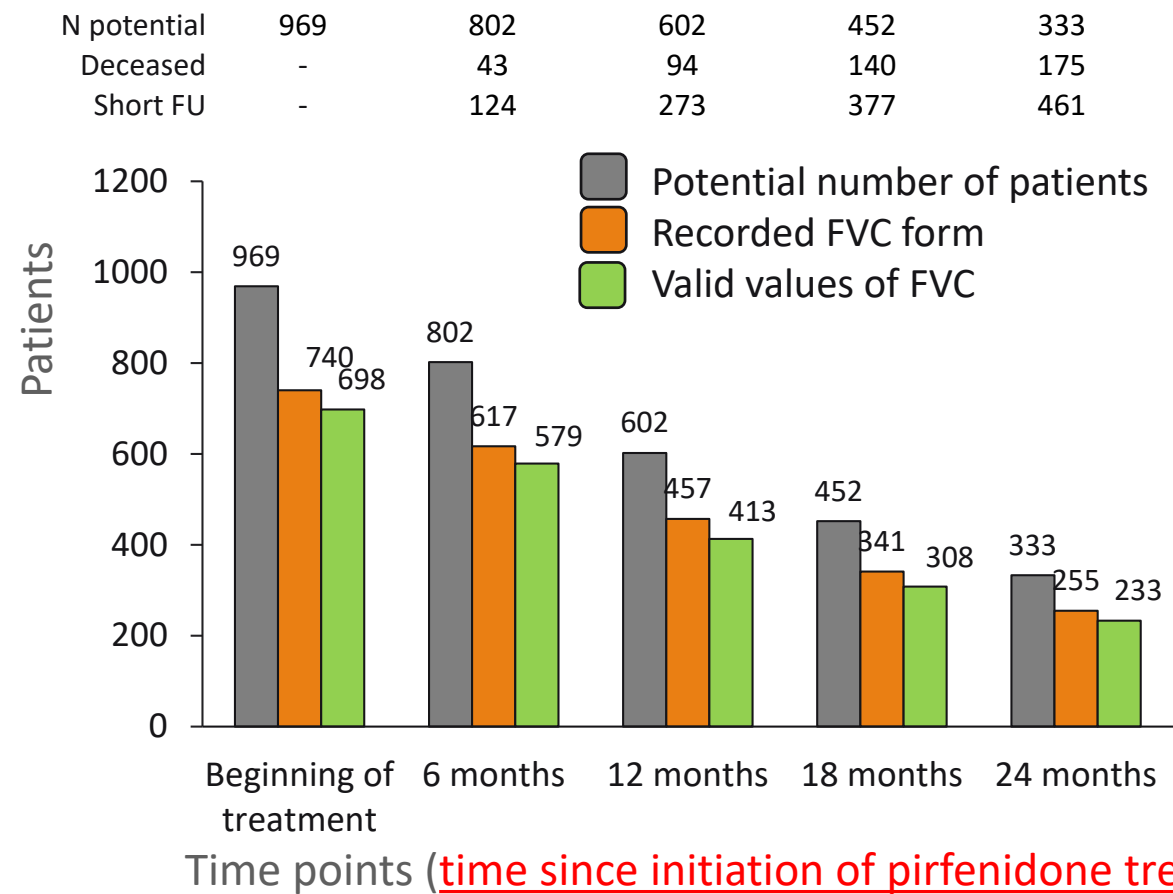


Follow-up visit recorded within 2 months of the reference date

Comparison of patients suitable for analysis and theoretical number of patients

Number of patients with treatment by pirfenidone (there are 969 treated by pirfenidone).
Potential number of patients is number of patients recorded in registry minus deceased patients and patients with insufficient follow-up length at given time point.

Analysis scenario: Since initiation of pirfenidone treatment

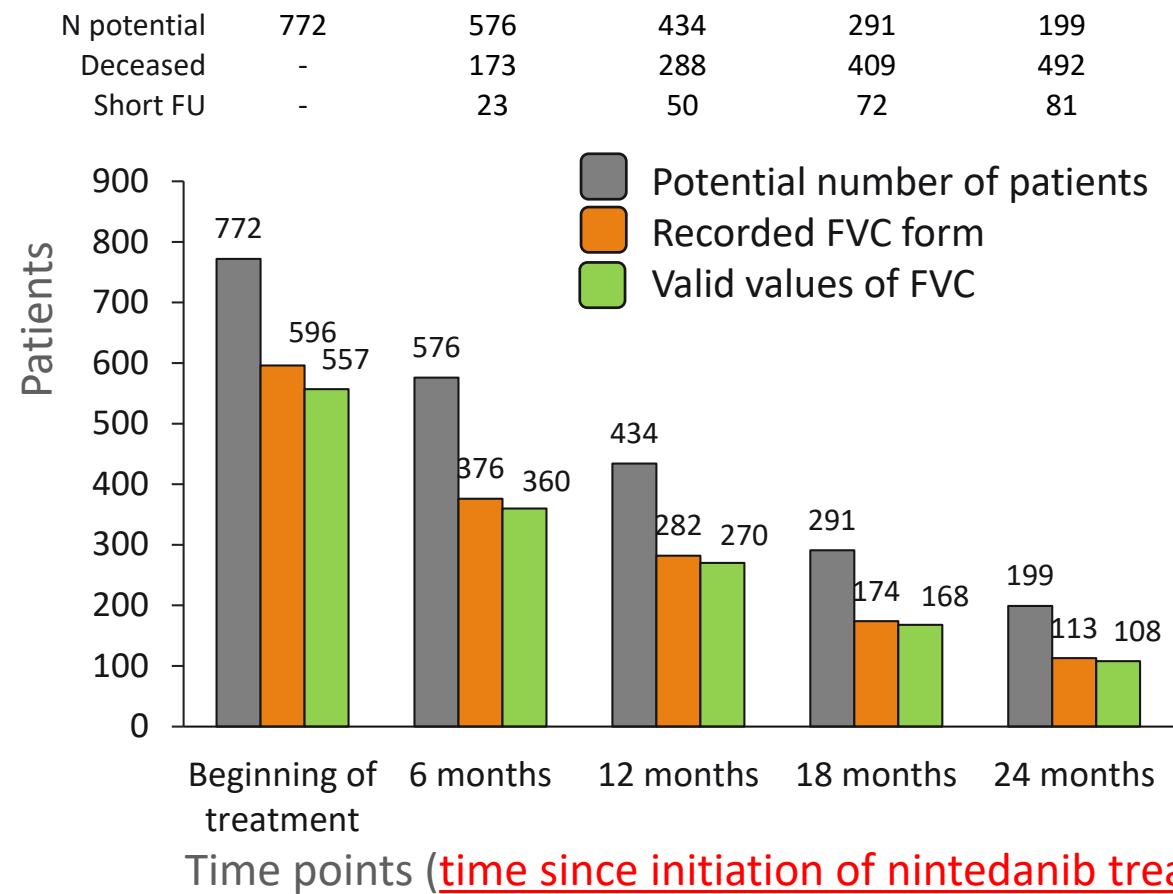


Follow-up visit recorded within 2 months of the reference date

Comparison of patients suitable for analysis and theoretical number of patients

Number of patients with treatment by nintedanib (there are 772 treated by nintedanib).
Potential number of patients is number of patients recorded in registry minus deceased patients and patients with insufficient follow-up length at given time point.

Analysis scenario: Since initiation of nintedanib treatment



Follow-up visit recorded within 2 months of the reference date

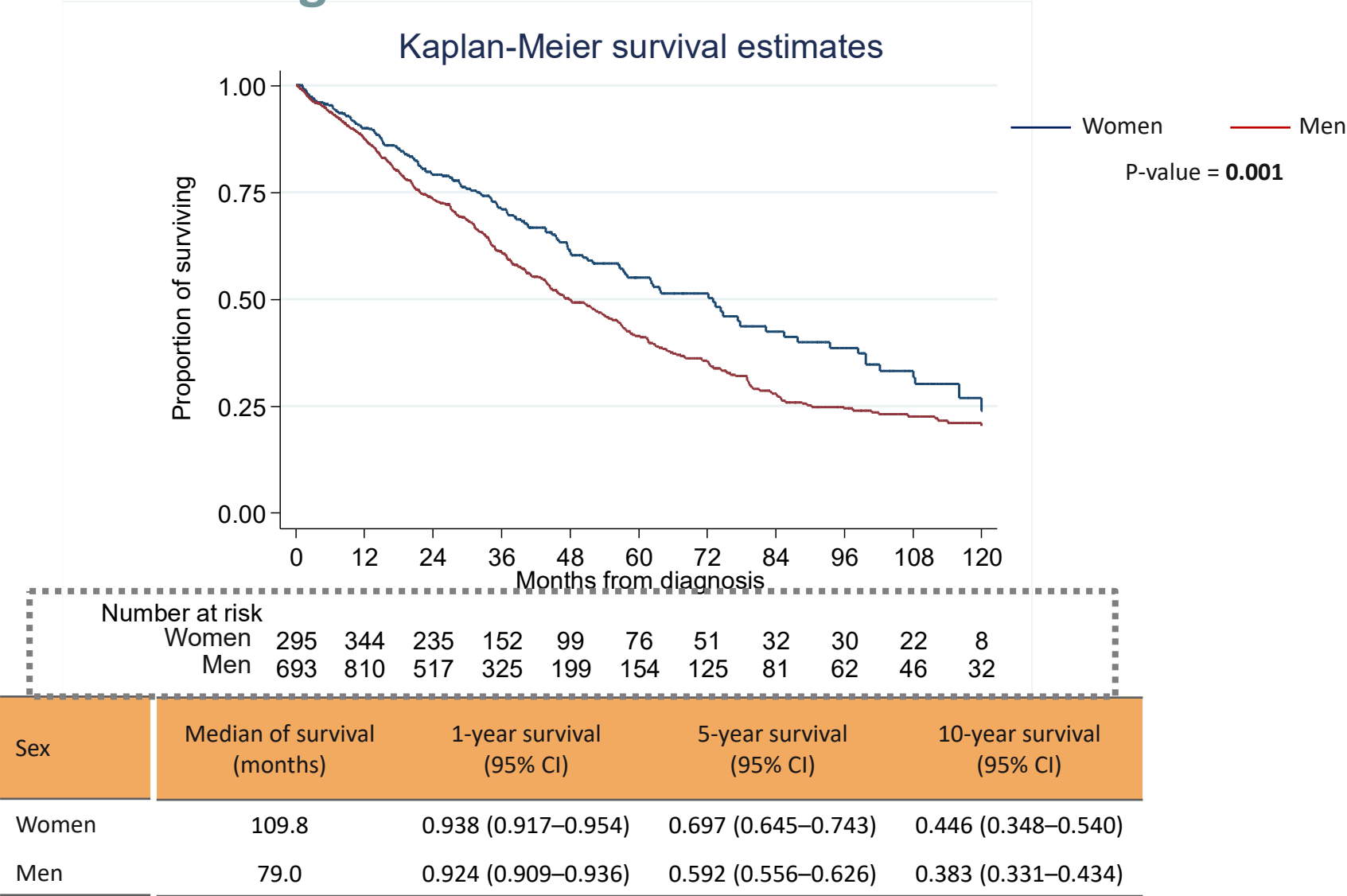
Survival analysis from the time of diagnosis: statistical considerations

- Long-term survival from the time of diagnosis
- Statistical issue of “left truncation”
 - person is **at risk of death** after diagnosis but before the enrolment (when **not under observation**)
 - had the person died before arriving at our door, we would never have known about her
 - necessary to treat her subsequent survival time as conditional on having already survived the time before enrolment
- Left truncation possible to adjust for within the statistical analysis
- Previously including both naive (marked as “without admission visit”) and left truncation adjusted (marked as “with admission visit”) Kaplan-Meier curve
- Now only correct estimation was kept in the summary report
- Cautiously interpret n at risk

Stata survival analysis reference manual, release 14



Long-term survival according to sex



Any other issues, proposals?





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Time for discussion



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**Thank you for your time and attendance
to the 9th international SC meeting!**