Universität Basel

Research Project

The CASCADE II Study

Third-party funded project

Project title The CASCADE II Study
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Several hundred cancer patients in Switzerland carry pathogenic germline variants associated with hereditaryăbreast/ovarian cancer (HBOC) and Lynch syndrome (LS). HBOC and LS cases are at significantly higher risk ofăprimary and secondary cancers and need lifelong cancer surveillance and access to different risk managementă options. Their close blood relatives have 12.5%-50% probability of inheriting the respective cancerăpredisposition and need access to genetic evaluation. European-based studies suggest that most cancerăpatients with hereditary cancer syndromes are not identified and do not receive adequate cancer surveillance.ăMost evidence comes from cross-sectional studies; there is little available information about changes inăadherence to surveillance over time. Little is known about how genetic test results affect subsequentăsurveillance for HBOC and LS cases and blood relatives, and the overall response of the Swiss healthcareăsystem to mutation carriers' and relatives' needs for long-term surveillance and cancer prevention.ăCASCADE II will collect prospective three-year data from confirmed mutation carriers and blood relatives toăexamine how cancer surveillance practices, uptake of risk management options, and access to genetic servicesă(for untested relatives) change over time.
Specific Aim 1: Monitor changes over time in cancer status, surveillance practices, uptake of risk managementăoptions, and uptake of genetic testing (for previously untested relatives), and explore whether there areădifferences in occurrence of these events (or cumulative incidence of events) during the follow-up period amongăthe different participant groups.
Specific Aim 2: Examine the predictive value of individual domain clusters (e.g., cancer status), interpersonalădomain clusters (e.g., family environment), and healthcare system domain clusters (e.g., provider specialty) onăcancer surveillance practices, uptake of risk management options, and uptake of genetic testing (for previouslyăuntested relatives).
Specific Aim 3: Explore participants' preferences for the role and involvement of healthcare providers inăorganization of cancer surveillance and follow-up care.

Longitudinal data from the CASCADE cohort, a prospective, family-based cohort targeting HBOC and LS confirmed cases and blood relatives will address these aims. CASCADE uses surveys to assess cancer status,ăsurveillance, management of hereditary cancer risk, and coordination of care, covering multilevel factorsăaffecting cancer prevention and survivorship. Data from the CASCADE I and CASCADE II studies span a periodăof over 6 years and 4 data collection points, each approximately 18 months

apart, for participants entering theăcohort since its initiation. Recruitment takes place in oncology and/or genetic testing centres in three linguisticăregions of Switzerland.
Longitudinal survey data will address Aims 1 and 2. We will use Kaplan-Meier analyses and multivariate and/orămulti-level Cox Proportional Hazards models to regress “cancer surveillance” event and “use of genetic services”ăevent on predictors. Exploratory factor analyses and hierarchical cluster analyses will generate domain clustersăfor participants. Narrative data (focus groups and interviews) from selected participants to present diverseăperspectives, triangulated with survey data, will address Aim 3.ă

Data from the CASCADE cohort have considerable potential to enhance the development of high-qualityăcomprehensive support systems to improve cancer surveillance and access to genetic specialists andăcoordination of cancer care services in Switzerland.

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Foundations and Associations

Follow-up project of 4214199 The CASCADE cohort: a family-based cohort for investigating the use and impact of genetic testing, and the development of comprehensive interventions for hereditary breast/ovarian and Lynch syndromes in Switzerland

Add publication

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