

PARTNER Investigator Meeting

18 Feb 2010. Marriott Hotel, San Francisco.

Minutes

More than 40 people from European clinics attended the meeting. (Tina: if you have the names that would be helpful to list them, but don't worry if not time to do so as it is important to get this out today).

The study background and organisation was introduced by Jens Lundgren, Andrew Phillips gave the details on the design, Tina Bruun the details on the implementation and Simon Collins spoke from a community perspective on the study.

The following topics arose in discussion.

Informed consent

Include in informed consent for HIV- person the details of how to get PEP locally, in keeping with local / national guidelines.

Visit schedule and questionnaire

We should strongly consider 6 monthly follow-ups rather than 4 monthly, the phrasing in the protocol could therefore be between 4-6 months?

If the negative partner is seen every 6 month, then an online questionnaire could be administrated every 3 month in order to get an update on risk behaviour mid way through the 6 month period.

It was suggested that at baseline we include questions on how long the current partnership have been having unprotected sex.

Blood sample analyses

There was a discussion of what will we do if we don't get a sample for virus extraction from both the partners when the HIV negative person has become infected.

The benefits of getting a sample from the HIV negative partner were discussed. At present we do not have funds to cover collection of samples and CCR5 measurement.

Another point focussed on what happens if a blip value > 50 during the 4 month period ?
Do we ask the site to retest the VL on the same blood sample ?

Questionnaires

Nikos Dedes mentioned that there is a questionnaire for MSM being developed at the European level that we should be aware of when developing our questionnaires and he will send to Tina (now sent).

Inclusion criteria

It was suggested that besides having unprotected sex in last month as an inclusion criteria, we added having had a condom breakage in the last month as an inclusion criteria. Then the partnership didn't need to admit unprotected sex up front.

Other

Advertising good idea - needs to be prepared early so can be included in Ethics submissions.

There will be an investigator call at 11.00 Central European time on 5th March.