The Danish Prostate Cancer Database

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Aim of database: The Danish Prostate Cancer Database (DAPROCAdata) is a nationwide clinical cancer database that has prospectively collected data on patients with incident prostate cancer in Denmark since February 2010. The overall aim of the DAPROCAdata is to improve the quality of prostate cancer care in Denmark by systematically collecting key clinical variables for the purposes of health care monitoring, quality improvement, and research.

Study population: All Danish patients with histologically verified prostate cancer are included in the DAPROCAdata.

Main variables: The DAPROCAdata registers clinical data and selected characteristics for patients with prostate cancer at diagnosis. Data are collected from the linkage of nationwide health registries and supplemented with online registration of key clinical variables by treating physicians at urological and oncological departments. Main variables include Gleason scores, cancer staging, prostate-specific antigen values, and therapeutic measures (active surveillance, surgery, radiotherapy, endocrine therapy, and chemotherapy).

Descriptive data: In total, 22,332 patients with prostate cancer were registered in DAPROCAdata as of April 2015. A key feature of DAPROCAdata is the routine collection of patient-reported outcome measures (PROM), including data on quality-of-life (pain levels, physical activity, sexual function, depression, urine and fecal incontinence) and lifestyle factors (smoking, alcohol consumption, and body mass index). PROM data are derived from questionnaires distributed at diagnosis and at 1-year and 3-year follow-up. Hitherto, the PROM data have been limited by low completeness (26% among newly diagnosed patients in 2014).

Conclusion: DAPROCAdata is a comprehensive, yet still young clinical database. Efforts to improve data collection, data validity, and completeness are ongoing and of high priority.

Keywords: prostate cancer, clinical quality indicators, database research

Introduction

The Danish Prostate Cancer Database (DAPROCAdata) is a nationwide clinical cancer database that prospectively collects data on key clinical parameters for prostate cancer (Table 1). DAPROCAdata is closely affiliated with the national expert group, the Danish Prostate Cancer Group (DAPROCA), which consists of clinicians and scientists responsible for developing and maintaining national clinical guidelines for the treatment of prostate cancer in Denmark.1

Aim of database

The overall aim of DAPROCAdata and the DAPROCA expert group is to improve the quality of care and management of patients with prostate cancer in Denmark. More
specifically, the purpose of DAPROCA data is to systematically collect key clinical parameters on all patients with incident prostate cancer in Denmark for health care monitoring, quality improvement, and research.

**Study population**

DAPROCA data has collected data on all incident, histologically verified prostate cancer cases in Denmark since February 2010 and as of April 2015, a total of 22,332 patients were registered in the database (Table 2). The inclusion criteria are registration in the Danish Pathology Registry with either: 1) SNOMED codes T77x (prostate and seminal vesicles) and M8xxx3 (all malignant invasive neoplasms in the prostate) or 2) SNOMED codes AE4620 (metastases originating from the prostate). The exclusion criteria are: 1) inconclusive prostate cancer diagnosis (eg, a relevant M-code registered together with the diagnosis code YY00, “obs. pro”); 2) patients with temporary personal identification numbers (ie, non-permanent residents); and 3) patients diagnosed in relation to having undergone cystectomy (surgical codes: KKCC10, KKCC11, KKCC20, KKCC21).

**Main variables**

Clinical data and selected characteristics for patients with prostate cancer at the time of diagnosis are systematically recorded in DAPROCA data by a combination of automatized linkage to nationwide health registries (eg, the Danish Pathology Registry, the Danish National Patient Register, and the Civil Registration System) and online registration of key clinical parameters by treating clinicians at the surgical and oncological departments.

Diagnostic and tumor characteristics are retrieved from the Danish Pathology Registry (eg, histological verification, Gleason score, and TNM staging). Supplementary data are obtained from the Danish National Patient Register (eg, medical history and previous surgical procedures prior to prostate cancer). Data on vital status and migration are obtained from the Civil Registration System. Furthermore, an ongoing medical record validation study evaluates the feasibility of including data on cause-specific death from the Danish

### Table 1 Overview of the DAPROCA data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General information</th>
<th>Incident prostate cancer data collection since February 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data coverage</td>
<td>Nationwide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data collection</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>22 urological and oncological departments participating in data registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data linkage from central registries combined with online prospective data collection of key clinical variables by treating clinicians</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Clinical quality indicators**: N=10
- **Clinical data registration forms**: Diagnostics Clinical Data Registration Form, Urology Clinical Data Registration Form, Oncology Clinical Data Registration Form
- **PROM questionnaires**: Data collection since May 2011
  - At diagnosis
  - 1-year follow-up
  - 3-year follow-up
- **Pathology variables**: Gleason score, TNM stage
- **Laboratory variable**: PSA at diagnosis
- **Comorbidity variables**: CCI
- **Medical resisters**: Region, Hospital site, Department

*Note*: CCI scores are systematically added to DAPROCA data during conversion to the DNKK.

**Abbreviations**: CCI, Charlson Comorbidity Index; DAPROCA data, Danish Prostate Cancer Database; DAPROCA, Danish Prostate Cancer Group.

### Table 2 Summary of patient population (patients diagnosed in the period from 2010 to April 2015) in DAPROCA data by treatment group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment groups</th>
<th>Number (N)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of patients with prostate cancer registered in DAPROCA data</td>
<td>N=22,332 (2010 to April 2015)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients with prostatectomy</td>
<td>N=4,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients with radiotherapy</td>
<td>N=6,118 (total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curative intent</td>
<td>N=3,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palliative intent</td>
<td>N=2,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients with endocrine therapy</td>
<td>N=7,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients with registered history of chemotherapy</td>
<td>N=508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients registered with active surveillance (based on the DAPROCA Urology Clinical Data Registration Form)</td>
<td>N=2,327</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note*: Data (as of April 2015) from the DAPROCA data 2014 Annual Report.

**Abbreviations**: DAPROCA data, Danish Prostate Cancer Database; DAPROCA, Danish Prostate Cancer Group.
null
Denmark. The DAPROCa data Steering Committee regularly evaluates the clinical relevance and utility of the clinical quality indicators in an ongoing effort toward continued refinement and quality improvement. Table 3 summarizes the clinical quality indicators and standards defined in 2014.

Follow-up
DAPROCa data has complete follow-up on all registered patients with prostate cancer. All patients are followed from the date of inclusion in DAPROCa data (ie, the date of cancer diagnosis) until death or emigration. This is possible by means of automatized linkage to the Danish Civil Registration System for information on vital status and residency.

Examples of research
Since its establishment in 2010, DAPROCa data has created the basis for annual quality improvement reports with detailed analyses of the clinical quality indicators. As the clinical database is young, the data presented in the existing annual reports should be interpreted with caution and especially reports from the very first years after establishment. Data completeness was low during the first year and not all relevant clinical departments participated in online data registration from the start. Nevertheless, the annual reports for the first 5 years document that data validity and completeness have steadily improved, as has the performance of the clinical quality indicators against the predefined set of quality indicator standards (Table 3).

Several validation and epidemiological studies based on data from the initial 5 years of follow-up from 2010 to 2014 are in progress (data not published). DAPROCa data will also participate in the DMCG.dk Benchmarking Consortium with planned benchmarking analyses on survival and mortality.

Administration and funding
DAPROCa data is under the auspices of the Danish Multi-Disciplinary Cancer Groups (DMCG.dk), which is an umbrella organization comprised of 24 national, disease-specific cancer groups and clinical databases. The urological cancer groups and databases are further organized under the Danish Urological Cancer Group. DAPROCa data is funded by the Danish Regions and is administered by the Danish Clinical Registries (RKKP). Technical support and data management is provided by the Registry Support Centre for Clinical Quality and Health Informatics (KCKS-Vest). Epidemiological and statistical support in the preparation of annual reports is provided by the Registry Support Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics, North (KCEB-Nord). The nationwide collection of PROM data at all urologic and oncologic centers in Denmark is performed in collaboration with WestChronic. In 2015, the Danish Cancer Society collaborated with DAPROCa and WestChronic in a 1-year parallel project on PROM data from prostate cancer patients, but restricted to five participating centers.

The DAPROCa data Steering Committee is comprised of clinicians and academic experts representing urology, oncology, pathology, epidemiology, biostatistics, and quality improvement science. In addition to ongoing refinement of the clinical quality indicators and the publication of annual reports, the Steering Committee promotes initiatives to improve data completeness, validity, and coding practices.

Data are collected in accordance with current Danish data protection laws (Sundhedsløvens § 196, stk 4 – law nr 546, dated June 24, 2005/law nr 603, dated June 18, 2012). Laws and procedures for data access to DAPROCa data are governed by the Data Protection Agency (Datatilsynet) and the National Board of Health (Sundhedsstyrelsen). Applications for access to DAPROCa data are reviewed by the Chair and Steering Committee following application to RKKP.

Conclusion
DAPROCa data was established in 2010 and is, thus, a relatively young clinical database. Efforts to improve data collection, data validity, and data completeness are ongoing and of high priority. Updated information on DAPROCa data is available at DAPROCa’s internet homepage: http://dmgc.dk/daproca-prostatacancer.

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Disclosure
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References