

Editorial

MULTICENTER STUDIES IN SURGERY IN THE BALEARIC ARCHIPELAGO: A CALL TO ACTION ESTUDIOS MULTICÉNTRICOS EN CIRUGÍA EN EL ARCHIPIÉLAGO BALEAR: UNA LLAMADA A LA ACCIÓN

Alessandro Bianchi¹, Juan José Segura-Sampedro²

Department of General Surgery, Hospital Universitario Son Espases, Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

Correspondence Author:

¹Unidad de Cirugía Esofagogástrica y Sarcomas, Servicio de Cirugía General y del Aparato Digestivo, Hospital Universitario Son Espases, Palma de Mallorca
orcid.org/0000-0002-4571-0511

²Unidad de Cirugía Hepatobilopancreática y Cirugía Oncológica Peritoneal, Servicio de Cirugía General y del Aparato Digestivo, Hospital Universitario Son Espases, Palma de Mallorca
Profesor asociado de Cirugía, Facultad de medicina, Universidad de las Islas Baleares
Grupo de Investigación en Enfermedad Oncológica Peritoneal, Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria de las Islas Baleares (IdISBa)

orcid.org/0000-0003-0565-3791

E-mail address: aplbianchi@gmail.com

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It is auspicious that we, the health professionals, in order to improve the treatment of our patients, we record and analyze the outcomes of our own work. With this same purpose clinical trials, carefully designed experiments involving human subjects, are carried on with the goal of improving patient care. That is why clinical trials are of crucial importance in evidence-based medicine and in recent decades there has been a significant increase in the number of trials performed. This has also led to an increase in the development of multicenter studies [1,2]. Compared with single-center studies, multicenter studies allow to increase the sample size, reduce patient recruitment time, costs and the presence of biases, increasing the power and the validity of the study. They also allow diluting the effect that one center has better researchers than another, so that the results are more similar to reality [3]. Multicentre studies have rigorous study protocols to ensure uniform data collection among centres; however, heterogeneity in clinical practice among centres may be a major confounding factor in interpreting the results of these studies [4].

In this context Balearic hospitals could represent a good niche to implement multicenter studies. The limited number of hospitals distributed in the territory could facilitate the organization of the

study of relatively prevalent surgical pathologies. Although daily clinical practice makes organization difficult, this should not be impossible to achieve. Thanks to the presence of the Balearic Society of Surgery (SOBACIR), it should be possible to identify managers in each hospital who can coordinate the collection of data on the pathology or therapeutic treatment to be studied. This would bring surgeons if Balearic Island's hospitals even closer, improve collaboration between professionals and could be a first step towards a collaborative management of complex pathology, as the successful example shown by the "Catalan model" [5].

Multicenter studies also benefit from the use of new technology and social networks, an instrument that is increasingly used by doctors to keep up to date and share information [6]. Among social networks, Twitter is considered as a good option to disseminate educational content, not only because it allows the dissemination of information about a topic but also because of the possibility of promoting exchanges of impressions in real time with different people throughout the world [7]. The most significant example is the #SoMe4Surgery platform, a virtual space open to all health professionals (nurses, anesthesiologists, etc. and of course surgeons) that each week proposes to debate a topic to promote different questions, ideas and proposals [7].

After the successful model by Eurosurg, Globalsurg and others, which have successfully developed several international collaborative studies a #BalearSurg initiative was initiated among surgeons in Balearic Islands. Although a #BalearSurg WhatsApp group (Fig 1.) was created but a collaborative initiative is yet to arise. We celebrate the initiative of #Balearsurg platform and we invite all Balearic surgeons to join and develop this exciting proposal. This proposal can lay the foundations for the development of multicenter studies within the Balearic archipelago and promote the collaboration that we yearn in this editorial.

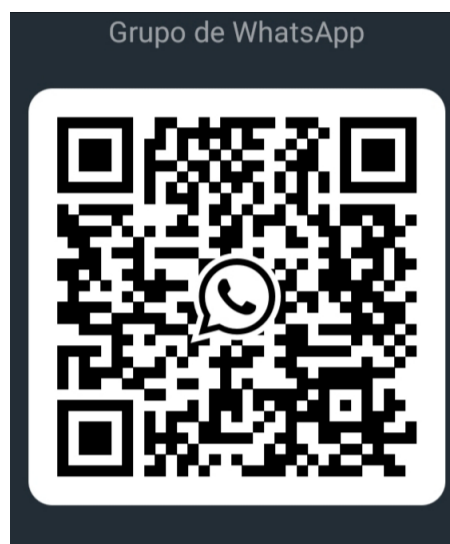


Figura 1. QR del grupo de WhatsApp #BalearSurg

This editorial has the purpose of acting as a kickoff toward increased collaboration between the hospitals of the Balearic Islands by conducting multicenter studies. The necessary instruments for its realization already exist, social networks and the presence of SOBACIR can guarantee a rapid flow and exchange of information and data, so we invite you to join, as any new proposal will be welcome.