

001: Summary of the study

Introduction

The prevalence of low semen quality and the incidence of testicular cancer have been steadily increasing over the past five decades in different regions of the World. The reasons behind these trends are complex but numerous insights indicate that environmental factors are important players, both during fetal life and adulthood. A large-scale study on the male reproductive health in Switzerland was therefore launched aiming to collect data on conscripts originating from all regions of the country during their visit to the national army's recruitment centers.

Aim

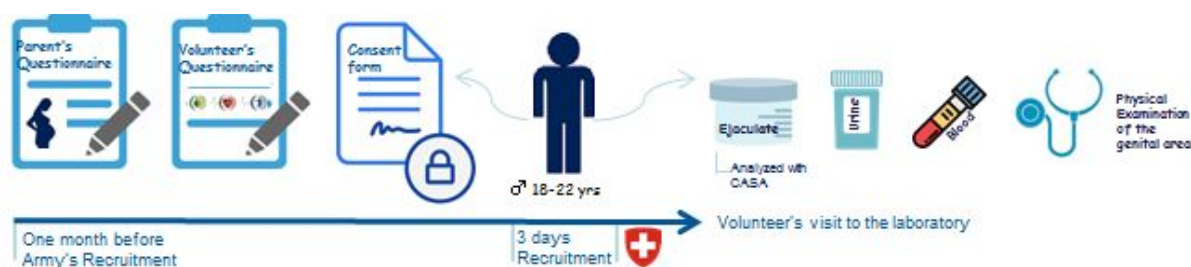
Describe the reproductive health of young Swiss men in relation to geographic variation and evaluate the association between semen quality and environmental/ lifestyle factors to which men were exposed to in-utero and during adulthood.

Selection of persons eligible to participate in the project

Over 97% of all young Swiss men, aged between 18 and 22 years, are asked to attend a 2-3 days camp prior to their potential enrollment into the army. For each canton, the number of required participants was calculated proportionally to the resident male population (16-60 years) in order to represent the whole country.

Procedure for participants

Volunteers receive an information letter describing the purpose of the study, a consent form and 2 questionnaires, one to be completed by themselves and the other, optionally, by their parents, preferably their mother. Volunteers who agree to participate in the biological part of the study, sign the consent form, send it back and are invited at the time of recruitment, to a medical laboratory to donate sperm, urine and blood samples.



Benefits for participants

At this stage of the study, more than 98% of participants want to know their results. This information is quite often a motivation for participation.

Rights of participants

Each conscript contacted is free to accept or refuse to participate in the project. Participation or non-participation in the study will not change medical care at the military recruitment level. The conscript may at any time change his mind and withdraw from the project, without having to justify his decision.

Obligations of participants

If volunteers decide to participate in the biological part of the study:

- They should respect two days of sexual abstinence.
- They will have to donate a semen sample and a urine sample. About 20 ml of blood will also be collected.
- A doctor will conduct a clinical examination of the genital area.

Risks and risks

Minimal, mainly associated with the blood sampling procedure.

Confidentiality of data and biological samples

We record personal and medical data and store biological samples (blood, urine, semen) in encrypted form. By completing and signing the consent form, the volunteer agrees that the biological samples may be used for scientific research as part of the research project. All persons involved in the study in any way are bound by professional and medical confidentiality.

Withdrawal from the project

Volunteers can withdraw from the project at any time if you wish. In the event of withdrawal from the project, the stored samples will be destroyed. Nevertheless, medical data already obtained will be stored in the databases.

Compensation of participants

Volunteers will not receive any cash remuneration for participating, but can choose between a Swiss Army Knife or an iTunes / GOOGLE card.

Harm and injury coverage

Military insurance covers possible harm and injury during military recruitment days.

Project financing

The project is presently funded by the Swiss Centre for Applied Toxicology (SCAHT) and the Fondation privée des Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG).

Contact persons

You may at any time ask all your questions and ask the following people for all the necessary details:

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