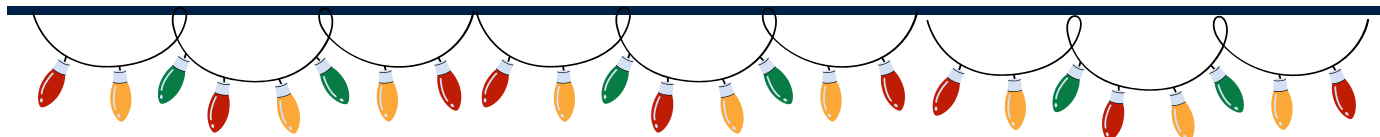


BHF PROTECT-TAVI



As 2024 draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on BHF PROTECT-TAVI. We have achieved recruitment of 7,627 over four incredible years. I continue to be in awe of what you have achieved. It is a testament to the commitment of UK interventional cardiology to delivering research, and we should be very proud. I want to thank every person working on the study across our 33 sites – each one of you has played a role in making the trial a success.

Our second interim analysis was held in February, and shortly afterwards we were granted an extension to increase the trial's sample size. We were gearing up for the challenge of recruiting an additional 2,000 patients, when the trial was stopped (by the Trial Steering Committee) in October 2024 following the third interim analysis. I have spoken with many of you about this.

The last few months of this year have been focused on preparing for analysis. You have risen to the challenge once again and I am extremely grateful for your efforts to get your data entered and queries resolved so quickly. I recognise that this is a huge undertaking and how hard you have all worked to make this happen, especially as you thought you had more time. We are working hard to adjudicate the final events and lock the database so that the analysis can start.

Next year promises to be another exciting year for BHF PROTECT-TAVI, and I am keen to update you on what is in store for 2025.

The main analysis for BHF PROTECT-TAVI will present the primary outcome. Crucially, it will look at the impact of embolic protection on disabling stroke and stroke severity. We have submitted an abstract to present the results of the trial at the late breaking trials session at the American College of Cardiology meeting in end of March 2025 and we hope to publish the findings at the same time. We have a short amount of time to get all this done and will keep you updated as we hear more.

We also need to continue to collect 12-month follow-up data for the remaining outcomes in the BHF PROTECT-TAVI trial and will have this data by October 2025 for the last participants. Many of you will remember that we are also planning a combined analysis with PROTECTED TAVR. Combining both trials will give us information on more than 10,000 participants and will tell us more about embolic protection.

For me, one of the highlights of this trial has been the opportunity to meet you in-person at trial investigator meetings. We are planning an investigator meeting in Spring 2025 where we can discuss the results of the trial and the next steps for the study - I look forward to seeing you all there.

I would like to end by thanking you once again for your support, dedication, and hard work. I hope that you are able to enjoy some time off over the holiday season with family and friends. Season's greetings and best wishes for 2025.

Raj