



DOI: 10.1089/end.2009.1567

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MISSION

Through worldwide collaboration, CROES seeks to assess, using evidence based scientific methodology, the various aspects of clinical endourology.

VISION

By applying rigorous scientific evaluation to the field of clinical endourology, CROES will enable all urologic surgeons to bring to their patients the most effective and efficient care possible.

PROJECTS

- Global PCNL study
- Global URS study
- Global Greenlight Laser study
- Global Renal Mass study
- Global NBI study

CONTACT

For more information please contact Sonja van Rees Vellinga (info@croesoffice.org).



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CROES

Jean de la Rosette and Stavros Gravas

When we discuss with colleagues about Clinical Research Office of the Endourological Society (CROES), first they ask for more information regarding the aim and structure of CROES and then the reasons they should participate in CROES projects. These two questions have already been answered in previous CROES newsletters published in *Journal of Endourology*.^{1,2} Then, colleagues usually ask our personal estimation and belief about their following concerns:

Are CROES Global Studies feasible?

When the concept of CROES was envisaged and introduced, we could only speculate and share with our colleagues our beliefs regarding the feasibility of global studies. Now we can talk based on hard evidence from the percutaneous nephrolithotripsy (PCNL) Global Study. Although, the PCNL Global Study was the first CROES project and was initiated without substantial promotion, it was widely embraced by the endourological community. In this study 103 sites from Asia, Europe and the Americas participated. In one year these sites prospectively enrolled almost 5000 patients, including 1130 cases of staghorn calculi, 165 cases of single kidneys and 79 cases of horseshoe kidneys. Data from this large high quality database are being analyzed to answer multiple predetermined questions with regard to PCNL.

It is obvious that these figures convincingly prove that creation of a global network of endo-centers is feasible and can serve as the basis for promotion of international clinical research and running of multicenter large scale clinical studies.

Is CROES viable?

Viability of CROES depends on three parameters: namely participation, financial support, and ethical and scientific integrity of studies.

The indisputable interest of the Endourological Society in research and diffusion of knowledge guarantees and stimulates the participation of fellowship-based academic centers and urologists worldwide who are members of the society in upcoming CROES projects. The confirmation rate of centers that will participate in the Global Greenlight Laser observational study, the Global Ureteroscopy observational study and the Global Renal Mass study, is beyond any expectation.

Pharmaceutical and device companies have supported the implementation of Global studies due to the high generalizability through the participation of many clinicians, the relatively low costs per study, the ability to generate large samples rapidly, and the great exposure of companies. Into the frame of CROES we have witnessed for the first time the phenomenon that companies support studies that are not related to their products, underscoring the positive impact of the CROES concept on industry.

CROES initiated research is subject to the rules set forward by the international and national health care authorities and special care has been given to the structure of CROES to facilitate the key conditions necessary to obtain clinical studies with reliability and of scientific credibility. In addition, all participating centers are informed that an audit (by a committee appointed by the Society) may be possible, whereas the centers must confirm at the end of the study that the reported data are full and correct.

Therefore, viability of CROES is ensured by the collaboration of all the involved parts including participating urologists, industry and CROES.

References

1. de la Rosette J, Gravas S. And its name is CROES. J Endourol 2009;23:1090–1091.
2. de la Rosette J, Gravas S. Why should I participate in CROES Global Studies? J Endourol 2009;23:1222.

- A presentation on new projects and the progress of the running studies were given during the 27th World Congress of Endourology & SWL in Munich, Germany.
- Please join the Global Network for the studies that are launched.
- Projects open for participation include the Global Greenlight Laser observational study, the Global Ureteroscopy observational study and the Global Renal Mass study.
- For further information please visit the CROES webpage: www.croesoffice.org or contact the office manager of CROES, Mrs. Sonja van Rees Vellinga (info@croesoffice.org).

