

BHF PROTECT-TAVI



With spring in full swing, we look back over the last season and reflect on our progress this year.

Although we associate winter with inactivity, BHF PROTECT-TAVI has been anything but dormant! Since our end of year update, we have opened a further four participating sites (taking us to a total of 26 open sites) and recruited 2,147 participants in total – nearly a third of our target. This really is an extraordinary achievement, and we would like to thank and congratulate everyone who has been involved in the study to make this a reality.

We recognise that this latest wave of Omicron has been particularly challenging, which makes the current recruitment rate even more remarkable. Hopefully, the recent decline in infections continues and that, at least for the next few months there is some relief.

One of the highlights this year has been the release of our animated, multilingual, participant information video:

[\(https://www.explainmyprocedure.com/protecttavi/\)](https://www.explainmyprocedure.com/protecttavi/).

We are committed to improving patients' experience of the trial and ensuring a diverse and representative study population - we hope that the animation goes some way towards achieving this.

As we look ahead to the rest of the year, we want to realise our ambition of making this trial a truly all-inclusive national study with every TAVI centre in the UK open and recruiting patients. We look forward to welcoming the remaining seven centres into the BHF PROTECT-TAVI family!

We also have two significant events coming up:

The results of PROTECTED TAVR, Boston Scientific's 3000-participant randomised controlled trial should be presented at TCT in September. Like BHF PROTECT-TAVI, PROTECTED TAVR is assessing whether the use of a cerebral embolic protection device reduces the risk of stroke associated with TAVI. The results of PROTECTED-TAVR will undoubtedly have implications for our trial and we will discuss these in detail at our next investigator meeting, which we are planning for Autumn 2022.

The other important milestone is our first interim analysis which will take place once 50% of participants have been recruited. Based on our current projection, we expect to achieve this by the end of the year. We will be relying on you to make sure we do not miss any strokes and ensuring all data are entered on the eCRF in a timely manner over the coming months so that we can undertake the analysis promptly.

I would like to end by emphasising that every single centre is critical to making this trial a success. What the UK TAVI research community has achieved to date is incredible and is testament to your dedication and commitment to the study.

Thank you and keep the momentum going!

Very best wishes

Rajesh

