Abstract:

BACKGROUND: The German national research project "familial prostate cancer" has been recruiting prostate cancer patients nationwide since 1999. In 2009, a comprehensive data analysis of the 25,065 families recruited was performed. Of these, 77.4% were identified as sporadic, 20.0% as familial and 2.6% as hereditary cases of prostate cancer. However, obtaining comprehensive, validated information about all relatives often fails. RESULTS: The high average age of the patients, the lower life expectancy in further generations and the low number of first-degree male relatives hampers the classification of sporadic, familial and hereditary cases. Consequently we describe here that in our database the identification of 100 hereditary cases requires a recruitment of more than 5,000 patients with their families. For 100 sporadic patients with 2 first-degree male relatives without a case history 1,250 patients are needed.