LETTER TO THE EDITOR





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Definition, aims, and implementation of GA²LEN/HAEi Angioedema Centers of Reference and Excellence

To the Editor,

GA²LEN, the Global Allergy and Asthma European Network, and HAE international (HAEi), the global umbrella organization for the world's hereditary angioedema (HAE) patient groups, have launched their joint ACARE (Angioedema Center of Reference and Excellence) program, within GA²LEN's center of reference and excellence (CORE) initiative. Angioedema is a common, heterogeneous, often debilitating and chronic condition and is frequently a challenge for physicians and affected patients, especially patients suffering from recurrent attacks. Additionally, it can be a challenge for some patients to understand the underlying etiology of their angioedema (Table 1). GA²LEN's CORE networks, such as UCARE for urticaria and ADCARE for atopic dermatitis, help to improve the management of difficult-to-treat conditions. Here, we describe the aims, requirements, provisions, application process, audit, and accreditation protocol for GA²LEN/HAEi ACAREs. ACAREs aim to provide excellence in angioedema management, increase the knowledge of angioedema through research and education, and promote advocacy activities that raise angioedema awareness. To become a certified ACARE, angioedema centers must fulfill 32 requirements, defined by specific provisions that will be assessed during an audit visit. The ACARE program will result in a strong network of angioedema specialists, promote angioedema research and awareness, and harmonize and improve angioedema management globally. ACAREs will

TABLE 1 Classification of angioedema

expand access to modern angioedema medicines in countries where they are available and help to bring them to countries where they are not.¹

This document summarizes the aims of GA²LEN/HAEi Angioedema Centers of Reference and Excellence (ACAREs) and elaborates the requirements that ACAREs must fulfill to become certified. It also provides (see Appendix S1) background information on GA²LEN and HAEi, including HAEi member organizations and regional patient advocates, on why we need an Angioedema Center of Reference and Excellence (ACARE) program and network, and on the accreditation and certification process, governance and funding, and on the interaction with other GA²LEN networks of centers of reference and excellence. The protocols, aims, requirements, and provisions related to becoming a certified ACARE are based on (a) the experience of the GA²LEN UCARE network and (b) input from angioedema patients, general practitioners, and angioedema specialists.

What are the aims of GA²LEN/HAEi ACAREs? The aims of ACAREs are to set the global standard for excellence in comprehensive angioedema care through research, education, advocacy, and interaction among ACAREs. By serving as referral centers for the diagnosis and management of patients with angioedema, ACAREs will complement the local healthcare system. ACAREs aim to increase knowledge and awareness of angioedema.

Bradykinin-mediated angioedema				Mast cell mediator-mediated angioedema		Unknown mediator
C1-INH deficiency/ defect		C1-INH normal		IgE mediated	Non-IgE mediated	
Inherited	Acquired	Inherited	Acquired			
HAE-1 HAE-2	AAE-C1- INH	HAE nC1-INH (HAE- FXII, HAE-ANGPTI, HAE-PLG, HAE- KNG1, HAE-UNK)	AE due to medication that interferes with BK degradation, eg ACEi	Angioedema with or without wheals in patients with urticaria Anaphylaxis	Angioedema with or without wheals in patients with urticaria	Idiopathic AE

Abbreviations: AAE-C1-INH, acquired angioedema due to C1-inhibitor deficiency; ACEI-AE, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor-induced angioedema; BK, bradykinin; HAE nC1-INH, hereditary angioedema with normal C1-inhibitor levels, either due to a mutation in factor XII (F12), angiopoietin-1 (ANGPT1), plasminogen (PLG), kininogen-1 (KNG1), or unknown (UNK) (HAE-FXII, HAE-ANGPTI, HAE-PLG, HAE-KNG1, HAE-UNK); HAE-1, hereditary angioedema due to C1-inhibitor deficiency; HAE-2, hereditary angioedema due to C1-inhibitor dysfunction.

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Aud Aut	k Dain: Ked Center: Attor: audit:	Deputy head(s) : asso	lashhear (h) ashhear(es)	GALEN Network of Excellence HAEJ					
Infrastructure / Set up									
	Repárement	Explanation	Deliverable(s)	Yes/No Cat.					
1.	Hospital setting or affiliation	Contor needs to be in a hospital or affiliated with a hospital with repatient facilities to allow far extended deprecisit work up and management of executation	Evidence of hespital setting or affiliation with hespital	в					
2.	Outpatient clinic with clinic hours for angloedema patients headed by expert	Center needs to have designated and expert leadership (experienced specialis) physician) and to offer a minimum number of consultation hours per- week for angloedems patients	Lead by experienced physician (baard certified specialib) bith/week of clinic time for angioedema patients (physician contact time)	×					
3.	Open to children and adult patients	Centers need to be oble to provide core for angloadoma patients of any age, either by center staff or affiliated opecialize	Evidence that engloedema patients of any age are provided with state of the art care	в — п					
4.	Team of dedicated staff, with specific angloedeeus training	Conterstalf needs to comprise more than one physician and at least one warse. All center staff needs to be specifically and regularly trained in angloedena	22 physicians and 21 name Record of 32 segleaders training per staff member per year, e.g. GAVER school on angleaders, angleaders CAV activity, etc.	а Портина С Портина А					
5.	Multidocalmery approach	Center needs to be able to interact with other specialties for the management of consorbidities, the treatment of patients with differential diagnoses, and to perform subjected diagnosities.	Evidence of interaction with other specialists	в п					
6.	Accessibility and visibility	Angloedems patients need to be able to find the center via information on the web; center needs to have referrial network(s) of physiolass; center needs to work with patient association(s), where applicable	Center clinic hours are posted on website Evidence al local referral network Evidence that patient argumention recommends the center	*					
7.	Commanication skills	Center staff needs to be able to communicate adequately with angloedenia patients in national language and in English	Proof of adequate communication skills by interview with contex staff	в — п					
в.	Quality monogement	Center needs to have Quality Management (204) system in place, need to have written protocols and standard operating procedures (50%)	Evidence of presence of GM system Proof of presence and use of SOPU/ proteculs	о о »					
s.	Structured documentation, recording and archiving of patient fields	Center needs to have in place and use a databank to record patient data, batabank needs to allow retrieval of information needed to address scientific questions	Patient databank 250 anglaedema patients in databank/war	A					
23.	Critical incidence reporting and error management ⁴	Center needs to have and make use of an incidence report book documenting all critical incidents. Centers must anytyre all reported incidents and take and document appropriate action	Evidence of presence and use of incidence report book and follow up and documentation of error reports by appropriate action	° ° 8					
11.	Accessment of partient satisfaction and unmet needs	Conten needs to regularly assess have satisfied angioedems patients are with the work of the centar and take appropriate action based on the outcare.	Proof that 240 patients were asked about their satisfaction in last 12 months (preferably by questionnaire)	aa					
12.	In team communication	Conten needs to have regular meetings of staff to discuss projects and concepts. Decisions should be protocolled and followed by action where applicable.	Evidence of regular team meetings, at least once per month, on center logistics, projects and concepts.	a 0.0					
12.	Active recruitment of research funding and support for educational activities and advocacy on angloedema	Center needs to actively recruit extramural funding to support research, educational activities and/or advocacy on anglocetome	Documentation of efforts to rearvit funding (grant applications, donation program)	* · · · · ·					

н	Support of the ACAPE notwork	Training and activities in auditing and certifying GAVLER(NALE ACAREs and interaction with other ACARES	Letter of intent to serve as a GA ² LEN/HAEI ACARII auditor and to contribute to ACARII network adjuides, projects, and meetings	0 0	А
15.	"Never give up" attitude	Staff needs to exhibit high motivation to help angioedema patients and show understanding that they may be the last exent of patients. Staff needs to convey to patients, that they are in good care and that the center will help them, however hard this may be.	Evidence of "never give up" attitude by staff interview	o o	в
-		Management			
	Requirement	Evaluation	Deliverable(d	Tes /No	00
и	Knowledge of and adherence to international guidelines' and conservas alocaments' far	All contential members need to know the current venions of these international guidelines and their serresponding national guidelines, if available. Center	International gaidelines and consensus documents for angloedema are present (seaser.) electronic version ^{1,2})	0 0	
	angloedema	approach to angloedema needs to be based on guideline recommendations.	Center staff can answer questions on guideline recommendations	o o	A
			Center physiciaes can show, by use of a patient file, that management decision are based on guideline recommendations.	D D	
17.	Rearledge and use of current nomenclature and classification of angloedems	Center staff needs to knew and use the current angloedema classification and nonserclature	Evidence that staff uses current, angloederna non-encluture and classification ¹⁴ , e.g. by interview and/or patient file review.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	٨
18.	Knowledge and use of guided history toking/beamnesis	Structured history taking by center physicians is essential and a shecklist can facilitate this	Checklist for history taking needs to be present and used as widenced by interview or ongioedemu patient Me review	0 0	×
33.	Knowledge and use all differential elaproxic algorithm	Center physicians need to be aware of the differential diagnoses of anginetisms and know how not to miss them.	Differential diagnostic algorithm ¹ needs to be present and used as evidenced by interview or angloedema patient file review	o o	A
20.	Standardized assessments and monitoring of disease activity, impact and central all disease	The use of instruments for assessing disease activity, impact and control allows for standardiaed measurements and monitoring of patients can help to optimice angleoderne management.	AAS', AE-Gol. ^{1,1} , AECT ¹ or other validated taols for the assessment of angloedena disease activity, impact and cantral need to be present and coed	o o	
			At least one of them needs to be used in 80% of recurrent angioedema patients		
21.	identification of correct-bilities and underlying causes	Conter needs to have access to and use measures to identify complication and cause of dynamic recurrent angleodoma, for example C3 inhibitor testing and genetic testing.	Evidence that diagnostic measures for angioedenia comobilities and anderlying sauses are used, e.g. C4 and C1 shifting tota, genetic techniq	0 0	×
22	Family screening and pedigree sharting	In patients with hereditary angloedema, all first- degree family members need to be screened and a pediance (a famile tree) needs to be prepared. SOFs	Standardized documentation of family screening and pedigree charting	o o	
		are needed as is the use of appropriate instruments. for pedigree charting and updating.	instrument / techniques are available and used as evidenced by patient file reviews	· ·	
23.	Knowledge and use of therapeutic algorithm	Conter physicians need to knew and apply therapeutic guideline algorithms.	Evidence that staff uses current, therapeutic algorithms for the treatment of patients with anglendence, e.g. by intensiew and/or patient file review	o o	х
24	Counceling	Counseling of patients and their families, for example on triggers of exacethation, on emergency modication/mesource, dely life issues can help to optimica anglocetma management.	Evidence that angloedena patients receive counseling, e.g. by interview antifar patient file review	o o	А

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FIGURE 1 A and B, Audit checklist for GA²LEN/HAEi Angioedema Center of Reference and Excellence (ACARE) certification (A) and certificate awarded to GA²LEN/HAEi ACAREs upon a successful audit (B). A, The list shows and explains the requirements for becoming a G^{A2}LEN/HAEi ACARE and the deliverables that are reviewed during the audit process. B, The certificate is awarded for 2 y and requires successful re-audit to be extended

What are the requirements for GA²LEN/HAEi ACAREs? ACAREs are required to demonstrate excellence in the management of angioedema, research activities, efforts in education, and advocacy activity. ACAREs need to fulfill 32 requirements, which are explained in the audit checklist (Figure 1A). This checklist includes specific deliverables for each requirement. For example, the requirement to know and follow international guidelines and consensus documents for angioedema (Requirement #16) entails that physicians and other ACARE healthcare professionals have read and understood the current versions of these guidelines and consensus documents and that their recommendations are implemented in their center.

These guidelines and consensus documents include, for example, the international WAO/EAACI guideline for HAE, the EAACI/ GA²LEN/EDF/WAO guideline for urticaria, the International/ Canadian hereditary angioedema guideline,²⁻⁵ the international consensus on the diagnosis and management of pediatric patients with hereditary angioedema with C1 inhibitor deficiency, the international consensus on the use of genetics in the management of HAE,⁶ and the international consensus and practical guidelines on the gynecologic and obstetric management of female patients with hereditary angioedema caused by C1 inhibitor deficiency.⁷ The deliverables for this requirement are that (a) current guideline and consensus document versions are present (paper or electronic version) at the center, (b) ACARE staff can answer questions on the recommendations these documents provide, and (c) ACARE physicians can show, upon request, by use of a patient file, that patient management decisions are based on guideline recommendations (Figure 1B).

This publication marks our intent to start the implementation of the GA²LEN/HAEi ACARE initiative. Specialty centers for angioedema have started to apply to become ACAREs, and audits and certifications are ongoing (Figure 1B). We expect that most GA²LEN UCARE centers and many angioedema specialty centers will become ACAREs in the near future. We predict and hope that by 2022, GA²LEN/HAEi ACAREs will be established in every continent. This will result in a strong global network of angioedema specialists, promote angioedema research, and harmonize and improve angioedema management worldwide. GA²LEN and HAEi will measure the impact of ACAREs over time and document and report the benefits of this initiative. ACARE network activities and a current list of ACAREs are posted on the network's website (www.acare-network.com).

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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