**Patient Information about the use of anonymous patient data for research**

Dear Patient,

You are being treated for Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy at our hospital. We wish you all the best with your treatment.

To understand and improve the quality of treatment, the Spine Atlas Initiative and your treating physician are collecting basic and anonymous information about patients like you and the treatment you have received. We are asking for your one-time consent to include your data in our study.

This study is data collection only and will not affect your treatment in any way. Your consent to use this data is completely voluntary, and you can withdraw your consent at any time. Withdrawing your consent will not affect your medical treatment.

**What is Spine Atlas Initiative (SAI)**

Inspired by international cancer registration, Spine Atlas is an international epidemiological initiative to visualise spine services and practice variations in spinal care across geographical boundaries. This study is focusing on Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy (DCM).

**Why it is being done**

The data collected in our hospital will be combined with data from other hospitals and compared by country. This was not done so far and provides researchers and public health professionals with the necessary base line information to plan healthcare structures, conduct further research and harmonise and potentially improve treatment for future patients like you.

**The benefits**

Get an understanding on the variations in treatments for patients like you. Contributing to the advancement in healthcare development, education and research.

**The risks**

Participating in the study does not have additional risks. In this project only anonymous data, that is recorded in hospital reports anyway, is collected. Data will be handled at all stages with utmost care and according to data protection and data privacy regulations. The data will be submitted for analysis in anonymous form and over protected channels to the European Spine Society (EUROSPINE). They have no possibility to identify a person with the data they receive.

**What is expected of you**

You are simply asked to provide one-time consent for using your anonymous data for the visualisation of performed treatments of patients like you. No further action is required.

**What will happen with the data**

The data will be combined with other anonymous data and analysed by the European Spine Society (EUROSPINE). The results will be published in scientific journals and distributed to the public etc. The anonymous data will be kept for 15 years during which the studies’ scientific committee is assessing if the data could be used to answer further research questions.

**Who to contact should you have any concerns or want to withdraw your consent**

(Insert hospitals-internal/PI contact)

Thank you for your consideration!