

Informed Consent for Minors – Empowering the Future of Paediatric Research

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Introduction

Since 2007 Biobank Graz - a partner of BBMRI.at - has been collecting informed consents from adult patients at the University Clinic Graz. This allows researchers to use samples acquired during routine processes in many different projects concerning therapies, medication etc. after ethical approval. Nevertheless minors have not been included in the consent form, which limited the usability of their samples. To address this, Biobank Graz collaborated with paediatric clinicians to implement a consent for patients aged 0 – 17 years allowing the collection of their samples and fostering research in this crucial area.

Material and Methods

Biobank Graz engaged in discussions with paediatric clinicians and the ethics committee of the Medical University of Graz to understand their needs regarding an informed consent for minors. Additionally, an info clip was developed to simplify the medical briefing for children explaining the concept of biobanking in an easy and entertaining way.

Results

In close cooperation with the paediatric clinicians and the ethics committee, Biobank Graz implemented three informed consents adapted to the different age groups (0 -7, 8-13, 14-17 years). Reconsenting is only required once patients reach legal age. The info clip explaining biobanking for minors is available on Biobank Graz's website and is shown to minors during their medical briefing.

Discussion/Conclusion

The implementation of the Biobank informed consent for minors allows the utilization of valuable samples not only in the scope of the study specific consent but also for future research questions. Biobank Graz contributes to advance the future of health research in the paediatric field.