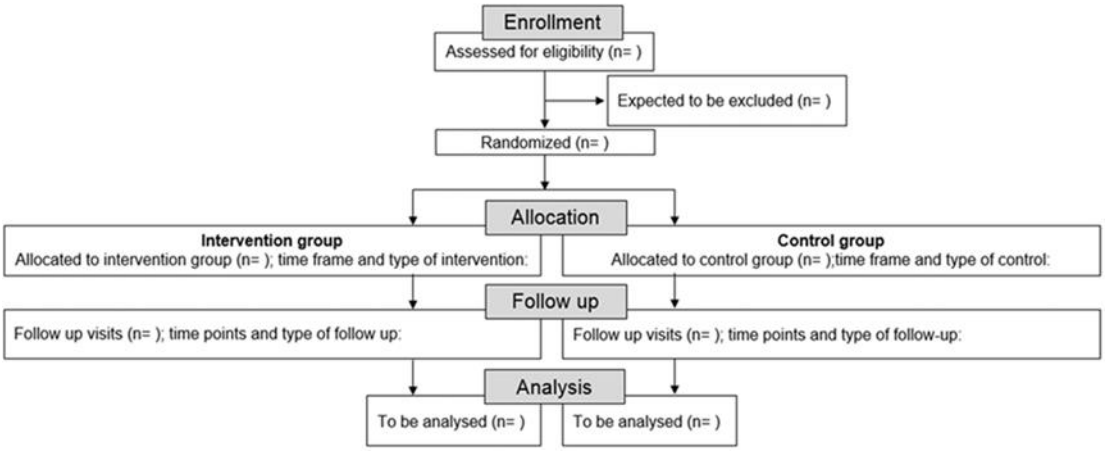
Trial Synopsis

Applicant(s) / coordinating investigator(s)	List the name of the person who will apply for funding and assume responsibility for conducting the clinical trial. ▪ **First name, last name, academic title** ▪ **Employment status** ▪ **Institution and department (complete name)** ▪ **Postal address** ▪ **Telephone/e-mail address**
Co-applicant(s)	List co-applicant(s), if applicable. Limit the number of co-applicant(s) by naming only those who will substantially contribute to the design, management and analysis of the trial but will not apply for funding. This usually does not include the main investigators of participating recruiting centres. ▪ **First name, last name, academic title** ▪ **Institution and department (complete name)** ▪ **Postal address** ▪ **Telephone/e-mail address** Each co-applicant should submit a two-page CV including his/her ten most important publications.
Title of trial (English)	The title of the trial (not to exceed 300 characters) should be as precise as possible. An acronym is optional.
Title of trial (German)	The title of the trial (not to exceed 300 characters) should be as precise as possible. An acronym is optional.
Medical condition	The medical condition being studied (e.g. asthma, myocardial infarction, depression)
Hypothesis	Clearly specify the hypothesis of the trial that determines sample size calculation.
Participants / study population	Specify the population to be studied. **Key inclusion criteria:** **Key exclusion criteria:**
Trial type	Please mark which clinical trial type you are applying for under this programme. **Feasibility study (interventional design only)**: ☐ **Interventional trial**: ☐ **Observational trial**: ☐ If you have chosen an **observational trial**, please **justify** your decision briefly: **----------** Present key elements of your trial design here, e.g. randomized/non-randomized, type of masking (single, double, observer blind), type of controls (active/placebo), parallel group/cross-over, prognostic, diagnostic.

	Key elements:
Treatments / procedures	Detail your trial design by describing the treatments/procedures (intervention, dose and mode of application) that will be compared. **Experimental intervention:** **Control intervention:** **Follow-up per patient:** **Duration of intervention per patient:**
Endpoint(s)	**Primary endpoint:** **Secondary endpoint(s):** **Assessment of safety:**
Trial duration	**First patient in to last patient out (months):** **Duration of the entire trial (months):** **Recruitment period (months):**
Statistical analysis	Statistical methods used to compare groups for primary and secondary outcomes: Methods for additional analyses, such as subgroup analyses and adjusted analyses:
Sample size	**To be assessed for eligibility: (n =)** **To be assigned to the trial, i.e. recruited: (n =)** **To be analysed: (n =)**
Participating sites	How many centres/sites will be involved and where are they located? **No. of cities to be involved:** **No. of centres to be involved:** **Names of cities and centres:**
Other funding bodies	If applicable, provide the name of the granting organisation and the funding amount
Submission of proposal elsewhere	Please indicate whether the same or a similar version of the proposal is currently being submitted to another funding organisation. Please note that when applying to this programme, parallel submission to other funding agencies is not allowed.

1 Trial Design

- Provide a schematic diagram that describes the trial design, intervention(s)/observations and procedures. The diagram below represents an example of an interventional trial as recommended by CONSORT.



2 Frequency and Scope of Trial Visits

- What is the proposed frequency and scope of patients' trial visits and, if applicable, the duration of post-trial follow-up? Give a schematic diagram or table.

3 Medical Problem and Relevance

- Describe the medical problem in terms of prevalence, incidence, mortality and burden of the disease.
- What therapy options are available for treatment of the disease?
- What research question arises from the medical problem that will be addressed in the trial?
- What is the novel aspect of the proposed trial?
- What impact will the results have in terms of relieving the burden of disease and/or improving human health? That is, how will the individual patient and the patient population benefit from the trial?
- What impact will the results have on clinical practice?

4 Evidence

4.1 Search Strategy and Search Results

- Describe how you searched for the evidence. Indicate which databases were searched (such as DRKS, Clinicaltrials.gov, Cochrane, and Medline). Include search terms, limits, date of search and time period covered.
- State the results of your database search by listing the number and type of hits per search term(s).

4.2 Discussion of Evidence

- Cite and discuss the related literature and findings (e.g. proof-of-concept studies, pilot/feasibility studies, relevant previous/ongoing trials, systematic review(s), and case reports/series).
- Unpublished data should also be briefly summarised here.
- Use the existing evidence to put your trial into perspective and to substantiate your hypothesis.
- For **revised proposals**, has the evidence changes considerably since the start of the trial? If yes, what is the impact on the new evidence for the ongoing trial?

5 Justification of Design Aspects

5.1 Feasibility Study, if applicable

- If you are applying for a **feasibility study** under this programme, please describe and justify to what extent the obtained results will provide important insights with regard to the planning and conduct of a subsequent larger-scale confirmatory interventional trial.

5.2 Observational Trials, if applicable

- If you are applying for an **observational trial** under this programme, justify your choice of an observational design and explain why an interventional design cannot be used to address your research question.

5.3 Control(s) / Comparator(s)

5.4 Justify the choice of control(s)/comparator(s).

5.5 Participants / Study Population

- Justify the population to be studied, i.e. the selected inclusion and exclusion criteria, and include reflections on generalisability and representativeness.
- For **revised proposals**, summarize and justify all major changes concerning the study population implemented after the start of funding.

5.6 Treatments / Procedures

- Justify and describe the chosen treatments/procedures (intervention, dose and mode of application) that will be compared in your trial.
- Justify the duration of treatments/procedures and follow-up per patient.
- Justify how your **feasibility study** endpoints will inform a future larger-scale confirmatory interventional trial. Include thresholds and stop criteria.
- For **revised proposals**, summarize and justify all major changes concerning treatments/procedures implemented after the start of funding.

a) Acupuncture rationale
b) Details of needling
c) Treatment regimen
d) Other components of treatment
e) Practitioner background
f) Control or comparator interventions

5.7 Additional Treatments

- Please describe the medication(s)/treatment(s) permitted (including rescue medication) and not permitted before and/or during the trial, if applicable.

5.8 Outcome Measures

- Justify the endpoints chosen.
- Have the endpoints been validated in other clinical trials?
- Are standardized/generally agreed core outcome sets included in the endpoints chosen? If not, please justify.

- Are there any guidelines proposing this endpoint/these endpoints?
- Discuss the clinical relevance of the outcome measures for the target population or the individual patient.
- How will primary and secondary endpoints be derived from actual measurements?
- Justify the mode of and rationale for data collection.

5.9 Methods Against Bias

- Name and discuss potential sources of bias.
- Justify your strategy to prevent bias by addressing randomization and blinding as well as potential trial-site effects and differences in expertise of persons executing treatments.
- If randomization and/or blinding is not feasible, explain why.
- For **observational trials**, describe how you aim to prevent bias in the selection and matching of patients. Consider confounders and their influence. List further sources of bias that may apply to your trial (e.g. trial-site effects) and describe your strategy to address them.
- For **revised proposals**, have there been any problems with the randomization procedure, cases of deliberate disregard of the randomization result, or cases of deliberate unblinding? If yes, please discuss their potential impact for the trial results. Have any measures been implemented for prevention of further randomization or blinding issues?

5.10 Proposed Sample Size / Power Calculations

- What is the proposed sample size and what is the justification for the assumptions underlying the power calculations?
- Include a comprehensible, checkable description of how sample size was calculated.
- Detail outcome measures, event rates, means and medians, the software used for sample size calculation, etc., as appropriate.
- Take anticipated rates of non-compliance and losses to follow-up into account.

5.10.1 Compliance / Rate of Loss to Follow-Up

- Provide details for assumptions on compliance issues. On what evidence are the compliance figures based?

- What is the assumed rate of loss to follow-up? On what evidence is the loss to follow-up rate based?
- How will losses to follow-up or non-compliance be handled in the statistical analysis?

5.11 Feasibility of Recruitment / Access to Study Population

- What is the evidence that the intended recruitment rate or access to study population is achievable (e.g. pilot/feasibility study)?
- Describe the data from which you have assessed the potential for recruiting/accessing the required number of suitable subjects.
- Comment on the occurrence of the disease, the access to patients and their willingness to take part in a trial, especially when randomized.

5.11.1 Recruitment Table

- Justify the numbers of eligible patients per trial site by filling in the table below.
- Please provide the signatures of the participating recruiting centres' main investigators on the declarations of commitment. The template for the declarations of commitment can be found at the end of this document.

Full name of Investigator	**City and name of institution**	**No. of patients with relevant condition seen in the last 12 months fulfilling inclusion/exclusion criteria**	**Approx. no. of these patients who would agree to participate in the trial per year**	**Approx. no. of these patients who would be recruited during the entire trial**
Sum of all patients expected to be recruited for the entire trial				

For **revised proposals** use the table below:

Full name of Investigator	**City and name of institution**	**No. of patients already included**	**Approx. no. of patients included per months in this site**	**Expected no. of patients to be recruited until end of trial**
	Total:		Total:	

6 Statistical Analysis

- What is the proposed strategy of statistical analysis?
- What is the strategy for analysing the primary outcome? If applicable, how will multiple primary endpoints be analysed statistically?
- If interim analyses are planned, please specify.
- Will there be any subgroup analyses?
- How will missing data and/or subjects who have withdrawn from the trial be handled statistically?
- For **observational trials**, describe how the influence of confounding variables will be addressed in the statistical analysis

7 Ethical Considerations

- Discuss the acceptability of the risk incurred by the individual participant versus the potential benefit for the participant/population concerned.

For **revised proposals**, during conduct of the trial, have there been any events, which potentially change the initial safety and/or risk-benefit consideration

8 Project-Related Publications by Applicant(s) and Co-Applicant(s)

- Please list up to ten of your most significant publications that relate directly to the proposed project if available.

9 Trial Infrastructure

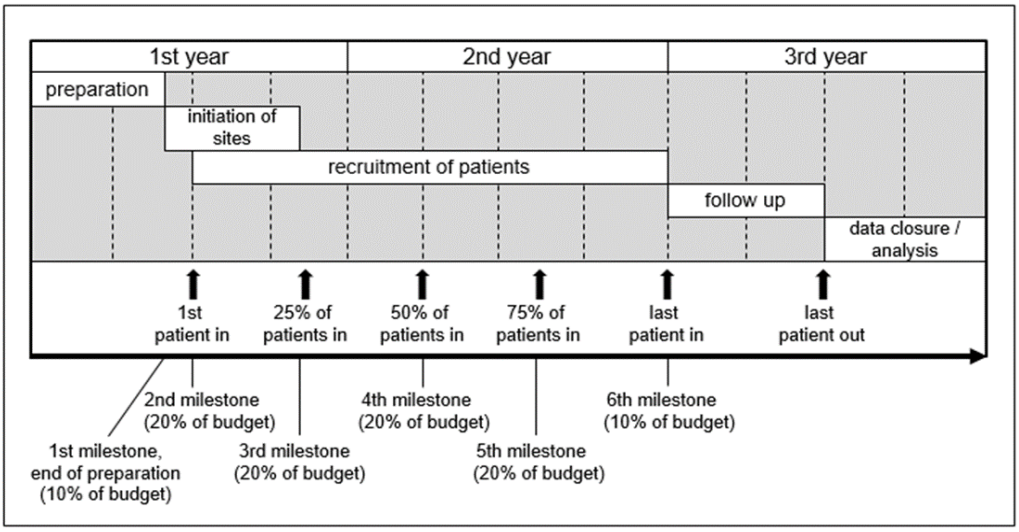
- Experience with conducting clinical trials is an important prerequisite for the success of a trial. Use this section to substantiate the main recruiting centres' experience in conducting clinical trials.
- Describe the available infrastructure of the main recruiting centres for conducting the clinical trial (e.g. trial-specific supporting facilities, Coordinating Centres for Clinical Trials (KKS), trial teams, opportunities for training trial staff) and thus substantiate why you have chosen to collaborate with them.

10 Trial Time Flow

- Funding by the DÄGfA will critically depend on the trial progression according to milestones. Please provide a diagram reflecting the preparation, pre-trial visits to

and initiation of centres, recruitment, follow-up and data cleaning/analysis. An example of such a diagram for a three-year trial is given below.

- As payments by the DÄGfAwill be made in instalments, please indicate the amount of funding required to reach each milestone.
- For **revised proposals**, update the trial time flow if timelines and milestones have been changed as compared to the previous/initial proposal.



11 List of Other Trial Participants

Name of trial sponsor		
Supporting facilities (central laboratories, pharmacies, etc.)		
Name	Name of institution and city	Responsibility/role
Other participating groups/bodies		
Name	Name of institution and city	Responsibility/role
Review of trial protocol		
Name	Name of institution and city	

12 Cooperation with Other Researchers

- This information will assist the DÄGfA in avoiding potential conflicts of interest during the review process.

12.1 Researchers with Whom You Have Agreed to Cooperate on This Project

12.2 Researchers with Whom You Have Collaborated Scientifically within the Past 3 Years

13 Commercial Interest

- Describe any potential commercial interest of a company in the results of the trial or explain why no such interest exists. Please note that proposals for trials whose outcomes are of direct commercial interest to a company are not eligible for funding.
- Is the trial drug or the therapeutic, diagnostic or prognostic procedure that is the object of this trial under patent protection?

☐ Yes, until (date): ☐ No

If yes, please specify.

14 Co-Financing of the Trial by a Company or Other Third Party

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify.

If co-financing (provision of funds, free services or consumables) is intended, the proposal should briefly describe the type and volume of the intended co-financing, including the name of the respective company or other third party.

Co-financing by industry or other third parties is possible if the applicant(s)/coordinating investigator(s) is/are independent, in particular with regard to the design, the conduct and the analysis of the trial as well as the publication of its results, and if the scientific independence of the investigators is ensured. A Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) must be drawn up in such cases and submitted to the DÄGfA for approval before funding can be granted.

For scientific collaborations with commercial enterprises or not-for-profit private institutions, a cooperation agreement must be drawn up and submitted to the DÄGfA for approval before funding can be granted.

15 Strategies for Data Handling and the Dissemination of Results

- Describe what measures will be implemented to ensure data management, curation and long-term preservation for future re-use, also by third parties. Please take existing standards and data repositories into account where appropriate.
- Explain how the results of the trial will be disseminated, especially beyond regular journal publication.
- The DÄGfA expects compliance with existing reporting guidelines (e.g. www.equator-network.org). Please indicate which of these guidelines will be followed.

16 Financial Details of the Trial

16.1 Budget Summary (for the current funding period)

- To request funding for the **current funding period**, fill in the relevant **white fields (only)** in the table below. Sum up the cost wherever useful. Do not include overhead.
- For listing staff, use the DFG Personnel Rates as categorised in DFG form 60.12. www.dfg.de/formulare/60_12

Funding for Staff (Staff category: e.g. Postdoctoral researcher)	**Amount**	**Percentage of full-time position**	**Duration (in months)**	**Euros**
e.g. Postdoctoral researcher	1	100%	12	68,400[1]
…				
Direct Project Costs				**Euros**
Equipment up to €10,000 and consumables				
Travel expenses				
Other costs				
Project-related publication expenses				
Instrumentation				**Euros**
Equipment exceeding €10,000				

[1] For listing staff and amounts, please use the DFG Personnel Rates as categorised in DFG form 60.12 (http://www.dfg.de/formulare/60_12/). Keep in mind that amounts change on a yearly basis.

				Euros (total amount for current funding period)

16.2 Detailed Budget Plan (for the current funding period)

- Based on the budget summary above, provide a **detailed budget plan for the current funding period** to explain and justify the requested items and amounts.
- Under each heading, list each item and the costs per item, and provide a short explanation/justification.
- **In the detailed budget plan you may delete headings that are not applicable.**

16.2.1 Funding for Staff

Under each organisational segment, list the staff categories (e.g. postdoctoral researcher or comparable) you wish to apply for and provide a short explanation of their tasks. The DÄGfA generally grants funding for staff in the form of standard amounts. **Equipment up to €10,000, software and consumables**

- Use this heading for equipment up to €10,000, software and consumables. Consumables may include costs for trial manuals, files and forms. List each item and the costs per item. Summarise items wherever useful.
- Third-party contracts and user fees for major instrumentation and core research facilities can be requested under “d. Other costs”.

a. Travel expenses

- Use this heading for travel expenses. Travel expenses can include costs for scientific meetings of investigators, independent experts as well as attendance by applicant(s) at scientific conferences. List each meeting, the number of persons involved and the travel expenses per person including travel and maintenance.

b. Other costs

- Here you may request project-specific funds for purposes not included in any of the other categories, such as third-party contracts, documentation services, fees

for the ethical approval[2], insurance, case payments, trial medication and laboratory costs (e.g. blood sample analysis). List each item and the costs per item. Summarise items wherever useful.

c. DÄGfA **Project-related publication expenses**

16.2.2 Instrumentation and equipment exceeding €10,000

17 Bibliography

- This bibliography is used for general references. In this bibliography, list only works you cite in your presentation of the state of the art, the research objectives, and the work programme.
- This bibliography is not the list of project-specific publications.
  -

Do not exceed the maximum of 20 pages including headings 1 to 17.

[2] Costs for ethical approvals can be funded by the DÄGfA. Costs for legal authorities cannot be funded by the DÄGfA.

Declarations of Commitment by Participating Centres

Please use the template provided here to declare the commitment of each participating centre (including the centre of the applicant(s)/coordinating investigator(s)). The template must be signed personally by the investigator at the respective site (as named in the table of heading 10.10.1 of the full proposal).

Name of investigator	
Institution	

Information on the clinical trial (must be in accordance with the full proposal)

Trial title	
Inclusion criteria	
Exclusion criteria	
Recruitment period (months)	

Strategy for the determination of recruitment figures

How many patients with the condition specified above have you seen in your institution during the last 12 months?	
How many of these patients would fulfil the inclusion criteria of the above-mentioned trial?	
Approximately how many of these patients would agree to participate in the above-named clinical trial per year?	
Approximately how many patients will be recruited during the entire trial?	
Trials currently recruiting at this institution (please provide the total number and registration no. of trials)	
No. of patients this institution has recruited to the above mentioned trials during the last 12 months	

Which source did you use to estimate potential participants in the above-named clinical trial?

☐ Individual estimate
☐ Hospital data management system
☐ Patient registry
☐ Other

If other, please specify.

Are there any other ongoing clinical trials/projects competing for the same patients?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes: How will this affect recruitment for the above-named clinical trial?

Note: Reported recruitment will be checked if funding is provided (site selection visits). If inconsistencies exist between the estimated and verified numbers, the applicant(s)/coordinating investigator(s) will be asked to address this issue accordingly.

Commitment to Participate

I hereby agree to participate in the above-named clinical trial and to support the trial by recruiting patients.

_____

Date / Signature

Conflicts of Interest (Any conflicts of interest must be disclosed here.)

I hereby declare that I have no conflict of interest with regard to the above-mentioned clinical trial and the investigational drugs that will be used.

_____

Date / Signature