



The EUPHORIC project: Outcome indicators collection in Europe. Results of the first phase



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Background

Monitoring the health of the European population and the performance of the health care systems of Member States is a huge undertaking given the difficulty of acquiring comparable information across countries. EUPHORIC (European Public Health Outcome Research and Indicators Collection) is a project funded by the EU Commission (DG SANCO) within the Public Health Programme (2003-2008).

Aim of the project is to define and validate outcome indicators in some relevant area of pathology integrating the ECHI list.

A consortium of 14 institutions from 9 EU countries is participating in the study. However, since the study hopes to involve most of the EU Member States and applicant Countries, all the EU countries, even those not yet included in the project, are invited to participate as collaborating partners.

Main Beneficiary

Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy

Associated Beneficiaries

EFORT/EAR Verein zur Unterstützung der Tätigkeit von nationalen Endoprothesenregistern, Austria

Sosiaal-Ja Terveysalan Tutkimus-Jakehtämiskeskus, Finland

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

Genetics Research Institute ONLUS, Italy

ASL RM E Department of Epidemiology, Italy

Institut Municipal d'Assistència Sanitària, Spain

Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

Collaborating Partners

Arthroplasty Register Tyrol, Austria

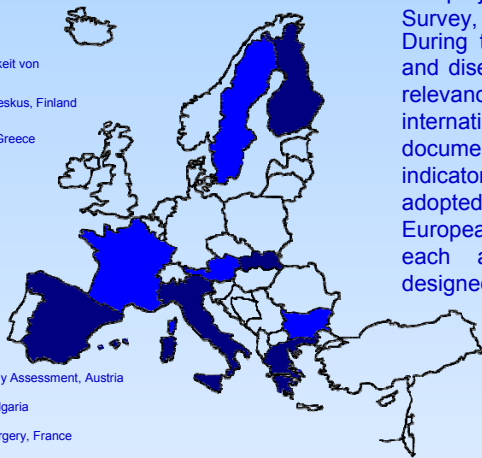
Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Health Technology Assessment, Austria

National Center of Public Health Protection, Bulgaria

French Society of Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery, France

Slovak Arthroplasty Register, Slovak Republic

Agency for Quality, Research and Assessment in Health, Spain



Methods

The project will end in December 2008. It is organised in 3 phases: Survey, Pilot and Dissemination.

During the Survey areas of pathology and disease/procedures of high clinical relevance were selected by analysing international literature, websites and documents of validated collections of indicators. The outcome indicators adopted in European and Extra-European countries were identified in each area. A questionnaire was designed to collect information from the

participating countries on the health care system and health data sources available for the selected diseases/procedures. A web site was set up with the purpose of disseminating the results (www.euphoric-project.eu).



Results

9 areas of pathology were selected (cardiovascular diseases and surgery, cancer, infectious diseases, other chronic diseases, orthopaedics, transplantation, emergency, neonatal/maternal, miscellanea). A list of 54 outcome indicators was defined. There is a high variability among the participating countries as for the availability and type of data source. Hospital discharge records are available for most of the selected diseases. Clinical records and registers are available only in some areas. Automatic linkage between different databases on a national basis is available only in Scandinavian countries. Implementation of risk adjustment models will be possible only in very few areas and in few countries since most of the collected data are not detailed enough.

Conclusions

Orthopaedic and cardiovascular areas of pathology have been taken into consideration for the pilot study, not only for their high clinical and political relevance, but also because all the participants are able to provide information in these areas. The pilot will use the available sources of information, such as routinely collected data, clinical data, registries, and will focus its activities on Acute Coronary Syndrome and Joint Arthroplasty. The inclusion of the partners of the European Arthroplasty Register (EAR), a network of 23 registers in 19 European countries, will give greater importance to the project and enhance its European dimension.

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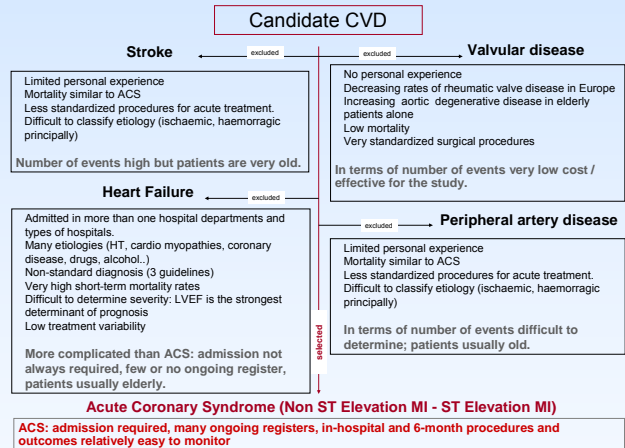
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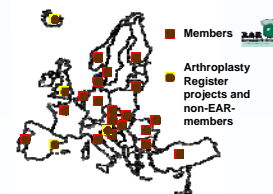
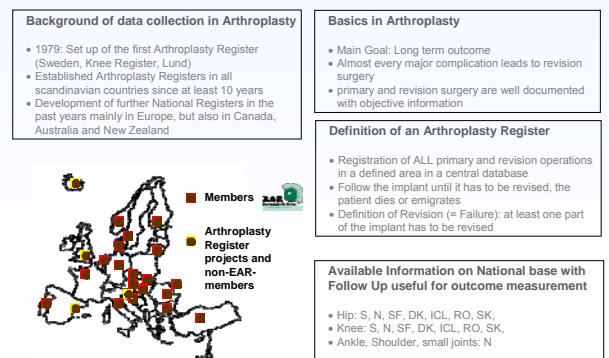
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