

[O09] DECREASE IN (MAJOR) AMPUTATIONS IN GERMAN DIABETICS - A SECONDARY DATA ANALYSIS BY AOK RHEINLAND/HAMBURG

Gerald Engels¹, Melanie May², Dirk Hochlenert³, Sebastian Hahn², Claudia Tonn²

¹*Chirurgische Praxis am Bayenthalgürtel, Department of Wound Surgery, St. Vinzenz Hospital, Cologne, Germany*

²*AOK Rheinland/Hamburg - Die Gesundheitskasse, Düsseldorf, Germany*

³*Diabetologist Practice, Koeln, Germany*

Aim: In two German regions with 11.1 million inhabitants, 6 networks for specialized treatment of DFS were implemented between 2002 and 2008. Data provided to the largest insurance company for accounting purposes was analyzed in order to determine changes in amputation rates as well as changes in the rate of diabetics requiring amputations in the years before and after the implementation of these networks.

Method: Data covering 2.9 million insured people collected during the years 2007–2013 was analyzed. For each region, the diabetics, their age, gender, and amputations were analyzed by the use of log-linear Poisson regression.

Results/Discussion: The rate of diabetics needing major amputations fell significantly by 9.5% per year ($p < 0.0001$) from 217 to 126 of 100,000 patients per year. The rate of diabetics needing amputations of all kind fell from 504 to 419 of 100,000 patients per year ($p = 0.0038$).

This clear decrease was concomitant to structural changes in health care due to networks for specialized care being provided with extra funding, as well as disease management programs. The networks integrate health care providers such as diabetologists, surgeons, nurses, orthopedic shoemakers, podiatrists, and other professionals in an organized system of shared care. They also organized awareness campaigns, educated community nurses and general practitioners, to provide second opinions before a major amputation, and used various media to spread information about DFS.

Conclusion: At the end of the observation period, the rate of diabetics requiring amputations was still high. For this reason, further expansion of organized specialized care is urgently needed.