



## Improvement in postoperative PAIN OUTcome

**Organisation name:** University Hospital Jena

**Country:** Germany

**Region where PAIN OUT is implemented:** Europe  
(worldwide dissemination is in progress)

**Total Region population:** 740 million

**Good Practice Target population:**  
Patients undergoing surgeries in any hospital worldwide

**Topics / chronic diseases addressed:**

Improvement in postoperative pain treatment, acute pain registry

**Relevance to B3 Action Plan:**

1		Organisational models	5	Care Pathway Implementation
2	x	Change Management	6	Patient / user empowerment,
3		Workforce Development, Education & Training	7	ICT / Teleservices
4		Risk Stratification	8	Finance, Funding

**Description:** PAIN OUT is a multi-national research project that provides a unique and user-friendly web-based information system whose goal is to improve treatment of patients with post-operative pain. The project offers a system for measurement and feedback of outcome quality and supports the process of decision making in order to achieve an optimized treatment of patients. From 2009-2012, it was funded by European Commission's 7th Framework Programme (Grant Agreement no. 223590).

Since January 2013, PAIN OUT is being continued in cooperation with professional societies, e.g. the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP). For benefiting from the services PAIN OUT offers, participating hospitals pay a moderate annual fee.

The main objective of the PAIN OUT project is to run a system for measurement and feedback of outcome quality and support of decision making. The project is executed in the areas of postoperative pain management which serves as an example for other fields of medicine with a high variation of care.

The project provides the medical community with a unique, user-friendly system to assess treatment of patients with postoperative pain. We have developed and implemented a web-based information system, featuring two major functions:

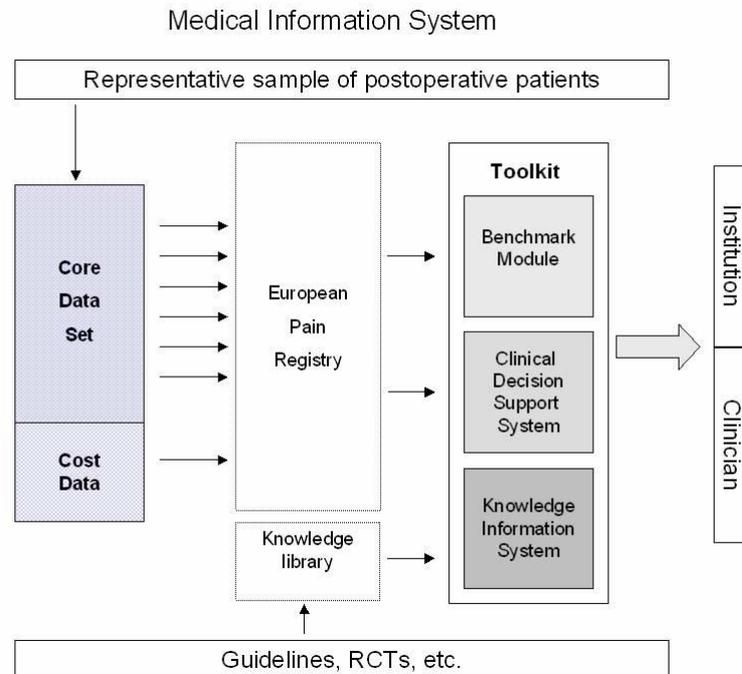
- (i) Feedback and benchmarking system which provides participating sites with continuously updating data and analyses about the quality of care they provide compared to other institutions and allows identification of 'best clinical practice'.
- (ii) A Knowledge Library which provides clinicians with easily accessible summaries of evidence-based recommendations tailored to specific post-operative situations.

**Methodology:** On the first postoperative day, bedside registration of several outcome quality parameters (pain intensity, functional impairments, side effects, etc.) as well as of selected clinical-demographic data takes place. These anonymized data are inputted into a database, analyzed and immediately fed back to the users. This web-based, automatic feedback system



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enables an internal and external benchmarking as well as an ongoing monitoring of processes. Evaluation of the results allows for detecting underperformance and can help to improve treatment processes. The result is better patient care.



### Innovation, Impact and Outcomes:

- PAIN OUT provides a system for measurement and comparison of quality in postoperative pain therapy between different hospitals around the world. The system features a standardized data collection, real time analyzing and a web-based feedback system.
- The impact of PAIN OUT is a continuous monitoring that can help to improve postoperative pain treatment. If postoperative pain treatment is optimized, patients suffer less, the length of hospital stay can be reduced and both patients and staff are more satisfied.
- During the EU funding period, more than 60 hospitals joined PAIN OUT on a voluntary basis. This remarkable international interest shows that PAIN OUT is filling a gap in quality management of postoperative pain.

### Transferability to other organisations /regions:

PAIN OUT can be transferred to other fields of medicine with a high variation of care. We have shown that the project can be implemented in different parts of the world. PAIN OUT is the international extension of the German QUIPS project.

### Further information:

[www.pain-out.eu](http://www.pain-out.eu)

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