

Request for decision

Kurt Gr nnewald requested an improvement in pain management for the Austrian population

A research of the Joanneum Research with the title: "Pain care situation in Austria" was introduced in 2011 and showed similar findings of comparable studies.

According to the estimates, every fifth Austrian person suffers from chronic pain. Of these 1.7 Million people, ca. 440.000 people suffer from serious and long lasting pains.

Pain sufferers have to visit several doctors before they get appointed the correct diagnosis and a fitting therapy. It can take up to more than 2 years until the diagnosis is determined. Furthermore it can take another 11 months until adequate treatment is received.

The estimated direct costs for chronic pain are in between 1.4 and 1.8 billion Euro. Pain is one of the most common causes of sick leave, the inability to continue working and early retirement. Early and adequate treatment can prevent pain from becoming chronic.

The available structures in treatment must be improved and interdisciplinary collaboration has to be strengthened. The amount of doctors with an additional degree for pain treatment needs to be increased. What also is important is the best treatment with medication. Unfortunately, the patients in Austria suffering from pain do not have access to all medication which is authorized in Europe. Newly approved pain medication is not included in the reimbursements of social insurances. According to the Austrian Pain Society, these medicines are available in countries comparable to Austria on the costs of health insurances.

The delegates therefore request the following decisions to be made:

The federal minister is being requested:

1. To construct a webpage of qualified care centers for diabetes patients which covers the entire region of Austria
2. To make sure that innovative medicines will become available in Austria to use for the treatment of strong pains, and to make sure that these medicines will be included in the index of national insurances
3. For this purpose to conduct scientific studies for new pain therapies, combination medicine and new technologies, so that it will be possible for patients to receive tailor made treatment