



**SIP**

Societal Impact of Pain

# **Costs related to pain**

**Report workshop 5**

**First EFIC® Symposium  
Societal Impact of Pain**

**May 5th 2010**

**Brussels**

## Workshop 5

# Costs related to pain

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**Chairman**

**Hans-Georg  
Kress**

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**Co- Chairman**

**Bernard Avouac**

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**Secretary & Reporter**

**Ad Rietveld**

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**Moderator**

**Livio Garattini**

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# The presentations

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The costs of musculoskeletal pain:  
the need for priority services **Paul J. Watson**

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The social cost of painful  
neuropathy in the 21st century **Magdi Hanna  
(cancelled)**

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Pharmaco-epidemiological aspects  
on the costs of pain **Eva Zebedin-  
Brandl**

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What can we learn from insurance  
data on pain, facts and costs? **Jacob Hofdijk**

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Measuring the value of pain in  
economic evaluation **Paul Kind**

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Project design to analyse the facts  
on pain related cost in Sweden **Marcelo Rivano-  
Fischer**

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# Summary

- New initiatives were presented on collecting data on pain treatment and direct/indirect costs of pain (UK, Austria, Netherlands and Sweden)
- All initiatives are recent and have generated only preliminary results
- Data from various sources were presented on the financial and societal impact of pain

# Discussion

- The discussion focused on:
  - Definitions used in data collection and HTA analyses
  - Robustness of methodologies and outcomes of analyses
  - How these databases and analyses could influence decision-making

# Discussion (Cont)

- Issues with current decision-making on pain treatments were identified:
  - different ethical and financial dimensions are not taken into account
    - No focus on prevention of pain
  - “bunker mentality” to different budgets making it difficult to take an integral approach to pain treatment (seems to be changing)
  - Insufficient focus on impact of pain on work and work related activities
  - Focus is too much on providing healthcare.

# Discussion (Cont)

- Some memorable quotes:
  - “Having limited data is better than having no data at all”
  - “Chronic pain is NOT an extended acute pain episode”
  - “Providing healthcare alone is insufficient. An integrated approach is needed which includes a strong focus on rehabilitation”
  - “It is not only about costs but there are ethical aspects that need to be taken into account”

# Discussion (Cont)

- Some memorable quotes:
  - “A group should be formed to develop a necessary data set to assess the impact (societal and healthcare) of pain and pain treatments”



# Consensus (informal)

- More relevant data need to be generated to enable decision-makers to increase funding for pain treatment
- Comparing and using available databases requires common definitions of items like optimal pain treatment, methodologies, parameters to be used etc
- Willingness of payers to take data into account when making decisions
- Data need to be made available in such a way as to help decision-makers making decisions