Baltic fracture competence centre

→ The number of cases of fractures and linked health disorders are going to increase in the future due to an aging society. The project will set up local registries and link them together in one transnational data registry to support hospitals and companies in the Baltic Sea Region in identifying needs and potentials for innovation within fracture management.

Summary

Innovations must reduce the total cost of care, or clearly improve the quality of care at a justifiable cost and bring new solutions to medical challenges. The industrial sectors for innovation are broad covering implants, imaging, pharmaceuticals, wound care or single use surgery devices. These trends have already led to a rising demand for innovation and investments e.g. by the European medical technology industry, which increased their R&D expenditure by 11% from 2012 to 2013.

At the same time, research and innovation (R&I) within fracture management is facing various challenges in understanding clinical needs and effectiveness, reducing costs of innovation and time to market. Clinics and companies often lack insight into the total costs of care, the effectiveness of treatment and the causes of adverse health outcomes in hospitals. To overcome these challenges, clinical fracture registries can provide evidence into the clinical “real world” and reveal needs and potentials for innovation. Further, clinics and hospitals are important actors in the innovation process helping to identify needs and to ensure user-oriented products. Around 50% of new products are initiated by doctors. Accordingly, companies in the Baltic State Region (BSR) need direct access to hospitals and doctors for collaboration within needs assessment, preclinical research, product development, clinical trials, post market follow up studies or health technology assessment.
Moreover, an intensified collaboration between doctors across hospitals and countries is beneficial to the innovation of clinical procedures through the exchange of best practice, influenced by different national, organisational and regulatory conditions. Finally, successful innovation is driven by fast market access across countries, which can be facilitated by collaboration between doctors and companies, which is especially relevant for start-ups and SMEs in the BSR.

The BFCC project responds to these challenges by aiming at accelerated and effective transnational collaboration for innovation within fracture management in the BSR. The BFCC project develops and implements a transnational fracture registry platform of six hospitals from Germany, Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Estonia and Sweden, allowing a comparison of the process and outcome quality across institutions and countries. This transnational R&I infrastructure fosters the evidence based identification of clinical best practice and needs for innovation. BFCC establishes a transnational collaboration platform between hospitals and industry, which will be tested in transnational pilots with hospitals and companies involved.