



Acute care and primary rehabilitation in ESCIF member countries 2007

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Aims of the study:

- to gather information about acute care & rehabilitation services
- to identify differences and focus areas
- to consider implications for ESCIF policy

Study design:

- A questionnaire was sent to member organisations in 18 countries
- A preliminary report was sent to members prior to the ESCIF congress in April 2007
- Discussion workshops at the congress

Questionnaire survey

- Questionnaire in 3 sections: general information, acute care, primary rehabilitation
- Good response rate: 16 countries completed
- But some difficulties in answering all the questions

Table 1: Prevalence, incidence and breakdown of SCI cases reported

Country	Register		Total no. SCI	Incidence Cases per year	Traumatic/ Non-traum		Breakdown as %age of annual		male	fem
	Nat	Reg			tr	n-tr	quad	para		
Austria	no	no	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Belgium	?	?	7000	150	?	?	?	?	?	?
Croatia	yes	no	3000 ¹	100	50	50	50	50	70	30
Denmark	no	no	2500	145	55	90	45	55	60	40
Finland	no	no	3000	140	100	40	50	50	75	25
Germany	yes ²	yes	48000	1800	1200	600	35	65	70	30
Ireland	yes ³	yes	1200	50	45	5	?	?	60	40
Italy	no	no	70000	1450	967	483	50	50	75	25
Netherlands	no	no	16000	350	?	?	?	?	?	?
Portugal	?	?	?	363	300	63	?	?	?	?
Scotland	yes	no	3000	201 ⁴	169	21	56	44	63	37
Slovenia	yes	no	1008	50	50	?	30	70	70	30
Spain	yes	yes	35000	1200	840	360	51	49	80	20
Sweden	yes	no	5000	150	100	50	60	40	80	20
Switzerland	no	no	4000	310	186	124	45	55	70	30
Eng & Wales	no	no	40000	1000	750	250	34	66	71	29

¹ The official figure for 2006 is 3,736 but this includes cases of hemiplegia and cerebral palsy

² Official figures for 2006

³ Official figures for 2006

⁴ The prevalence figure is an estimate, other figures are official figures for 2004

- National registers exist in Croatia, Ireland, Germany, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden
- Ireland, Germany and Scotland were the only countries to provide figures for a specific year
- The figures must be treated with caution!

Table 2: Acute care – destinations of new SCI patients with percentages where given

Country	Specialised hospital	SCI unit or ward	Neurosurg ward	Trauma ward	Non – spec ward
Austria			√	√	
Belgium		60		20	20
Croatia	√		√	√	
Denmark		√	√		
Finland			50	50	
Germany		80	5	15	
Ireland	100				
Italy		50	25	25	
Netherlands				√	
Portugal		√			
Scotland	√		√	√	
Slovenia	√	√		√	
Spain	40	15	10	10	25
Sweden		√		√	
Switzerland	50	25	25	√	√
Eng & Wales	√	√	√	√	

Acute care: organisations' aims:

- to create closer contact between organisation and newly-injured patients
- to improve contact with personnel involved in acute care

Table 3: Primary rehabilitation of SCI patients with percentages and number of beds available where given

Country	Specialised SCI hospital (1)	SCI unit or ward in gen hosp	SCI rehab centre (2)	Generalist rehab unit	Beds avail in 1 or 2
Austria			85%	15%	180
Belgium		60%		40%	126
Croatia			90%	10%	35
Denmark			90%	10%	67
Finland			60%	40%	43
Germany	√	√	√	√	?
Ireland	100%				50
Italy		50%	25%	25%	500
Netherlands			√	√	?
Portugal	√		√	√	?
Scotland	√			√	48
Slovenia			99%	1%	70
Spain	√	√	√	√	650
Sweden		√	√	√	?
Switzerland	60%	35%	5%		235
Eng & Wales	75%	√	√	√	400

Table 4: Individual therapy, sports activities and access to individual training facilities

Country	One-on-one physiotherapy (average hours per week)		One-on-one occupational therapy (average hours per week)		Sports	Individual exercise	
	Quad	Para	Quad	Para		Yes	No
Austria	5	3	5	2	√	√	
Belgium	15	10	15	10	√	√	
Croatia	5	5	5	5	75/25	√	
Denmark	5	3	5	1-2	√	50/50	
Finland	7	5	3	0	√	75/25	
Germany	5	5	2	2	75/25	75/25	
Ireland	10	10	10	10	√	50/50	
Italy	12	8	10	6	75/25	√	
Netherlands	5	4	6	3	√	50/50	
Portugal	?	?	?	?	50/50		√
Scotland	3	3	2	2	75/25	√	
Slovenia	30	20	?	?	√	√	
Spain	14	20	20	14	√	√	
Sweden	5	5	4	4	75/25	75/25	
Switzerland	7	5	5	2	√	√	
UK	?	?	?	?	√	√	

Further questions re. rehabilitation

- Therapies available
- Teaching and advisory services
- Facilities for patients and their families
- Peer counselling

Visions:

- National registers
- Peer counsellors
- Centralisation
- Research
- Information
- Demands to SCI care and rehabilitation

Workshop discussion groups

Group 1: Switzerland, France, Albania,
England and Wales

Group 2: Scotland, Spain, Germany,
Belgium

Group 3: Netherlands, Slovenia,
Austria

Group 4: Ireland, Italy, Croatia, Finland

Workshop discussion questions

- Why is it difficult to access the figures on the prevalence and incidence of SCI?
- Is a national register useful? How can it be used?
- What can organisations offer the newly-injured patient?
- Is it better to have peer counsellors employed by the rehabilitation centre or by the organisation?
- What are the advantages of dedicated spinal cord injury centres for acute care and rehabilitation?
- Should ESCIF formulate a policy defining its demands to SCI care and rehabilitation?

Conclusions

- The study has been instrumental in the exchange of information and ideas
- Identified differences – but revealed many shared concerns and interests
- The discussions have created a common platform for future policy

Further information?

The full report is available on the ESCIF website: www.escif.org

Contact Jane Horsewell by email vice-president@escif.org

