

Resources for Cardiovascular Health Care at the European Level

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Practise of cardiovascular medicine differs significantly from country to country across Europe, despite commonly accepted clinical management guidelines. Surveys conducted by the European Society of Cardiology confirm that despite differing rates of coronary artery disease, as measured by morbidity and mortality, a corresponding variability in for instance hospitalisations for this disease was not observed. It is also noted that the frequency of coronary angiograms and the resulting numbers of coronary interventions (coronary angioplasty or coronary by pass surgery) varies considerably from country to country, however, not in accordance to the rate of coronary artery disease. Thus, the disease is common in former Eastern Europe but angiograms and interventions few. While in countries like Germany or France with the lower prevalence the number of angiograms and interventions are considerably higher.

One possible explanation for these variations may be differences in funding and reimbursement mechanisms for diagnostics, pharmaceuticals and therapeutic devices intended for cardiovascular medical purposes.

Presently the European Society of Cardiology is investing in exploring the topic on patient excess on medical technology across Europe.

Some new data from this work will be shown.

Another topic of considerable interest is that medical practise whereas despite mutually agreed guidelines for cardiovascular care. Some examples of such discrepancies will be demonstrated. From them it is quite obvious that for instance by increased preventive efforts lives could be saved and morbidity decreased.

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