



Subgroup on Proton Therapy

SGPP meeting

*Unit "Health promotion, disease prevention, financial instruments",
Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission
European Investment Bank*

Proton therapy subgroup

What

Initiative of **EIB**, **MS** and **Commission**; **evidence** on clinical applications + availability
Waive of requests (2018-19); shift from research to treatment

Why

1. Evidence supports better assessment for all complex/**expensive** equipment; patients/health systems are **pressured**
2. Collaboration between centres, research coordination, centre distribution, equity of access – **across borders**
3. EU **funding** and financing can support deployment

How

October 2018 – national state of play; experts team, involved in previous studies;
October 2020 – main conclusions; (DG RTD, DG Ener; ERN; professional associations)



Main findings

- A steady and important increase of the number of PT centers is observed in the last 15 years (up to more than 40 centres in the EU by 2025), despite still significant costs and relative lack of evidence on efficacy
- A prevalence of PT centres distribution in central-western Europe, compared to eastern Europe and the Balkans region
- Research appears to be still hampered by:
 - suboptimal study **design**
 - lack of **registries**
 - absence of a common pooling system (patients scattered around clinical settings / referral / recruitment)
 - limited **coordination** among centres
 - weak **links** between **support** to infrastructure and support to **research**

Main conclusions

Proton therapy has the potential to affect the lives of people with cancer; so far research enables us to identify the minority of cancer patients who may benefit from it

Still, 15 years of reviews do not indicate known benefits; proton therapy can still be considered only at its beginning of widespread clinical implementation

Main conclusions

Need for

improved study **designs, metrology, and networking** between centres

patient **registries** and databases

(promising initiatives of European Particle Therapy Network and European Reference Networks)

Accumulation and presentation of compelling evidence of effectiveness and safe

Need to use 3 routes with EU dimension

1. supporting **research**
2. promoting **collaboration** between centres
3. using conditionality in investment **support**

-> **EIB** to continue with a **mapping exercise**, with an additional research perspective beyond a geographical and quantitative analysis



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Directorate C - Public health

Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases

Sub-group on proton therapy:

- The SGPP is invited to reflect on the way forward by replying to the following questions (to SANTE-SGPP@ec.europa.eu) by **2 December**.

Are you interested in addressing the issue of lack of evidence by increasing/ redirecting efforts in:

Research

(Not interested/Neutral/Interested)

(e.g.: launching targeted initiatives and pooling efforts)

Collaboration between centres

(Not interested/Neutral/Interested)

(e.g.: supporting networking and joint projects)

Conditionality in financing

(Not interested/Neutral/Interested)

(e.g.: strengthening the links between financial support and cooperation in the collection of evidence and in research)

Based on the responses, the Commission will consider potential ways to support such approaches.

In parallel, please let us know if you would consider actions at national level to complement EU action? (Yes/No)

If Yes, which ones? (Open answer)

25 November 2020, 14:00 – 16:30 CET