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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Public health

Health promotion, disease prevention, financial instruments

Flash report

Sub-group on **proton therapy**

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

21 October 2020

The Sub-group on Proton Therapy of the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases, co-chaired by DG SANTE and the European Investment Bank (EIB), held a virtual meeting to discuss with Member States' **health authorities**.

The topic of discussion was the state of play of the **efficacy of proton therapy and its clinical indications**, and the availability of the technology across the EU.

The meeting gathered 45 participants, including representatives of 11 Member States (The Netherlands, Sweden, Belgium, France, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Spain, Italy, Denmark and Hungary) DG Research and Innovation, the Joint Research Centre, the European Particle Therapy Network, and the EIB and DG SANTE.

The sub-group was briefed on the evidence update, commissioned by the EIB, on the clinical uses of proton therapy. The members then contributed insights on the findings and on the current use of proton therapy in their countries. The Commission mentioned the history of support for research under Horizon 2020 and the Joint Research Centre noted its experience in establishing European registry platforms.

Sub-group members may provide additional comments to the EIB by 6 November.

Conclusions

There was consensus that for more than 15 years there are significant **knowledge gaps** on the relative efficacy of proton therapy (most relevant given the resources involved and the pressures on patients and health systems).

There was agreement on the need for improved **study design, metrology, and networking** between centres, and **patient registries** and databases, in order to increase the knowledge and evidence bases.

The same consensus applied to the need to use 3 routes with EU dimensions to resolve the situation: i) supporting **research**; ii) promoting **collaboration** between centres; and iii) using **conditionality in investment support**.

It was decided that the Steering Group would be reported on the above to help define the next steps.