



Minutes

EAP Spring Meeting- EAP Research in Ambulatory Settings Network Friday, 17 May, 2019 | 11:00 – 12:30

This year the meetings of both EAPRASnet and the vaccination working group was held together again.

Adamos Hadjipanayis (CY) opened the EAPRASnet part by reporting that the abstract of the vaccine confidence EAPRASnet study was submitted to the journal Vaccine with all the country coordinators added to the authors' list. The abstract sent late March represents data collected from 18 countries.

Zachi Grossman (IL) updated the audience on the upcoming POCT (point-of-care test) EAPRASnet study, titled as: Online survey of European paediatricians about the availability and use of rapid point-of-care tests in the management of febrile children. As mentioned earlier during the winter meeting, the study will have 2 arms, one for primary paediatric care, run by EAPRASnet, and a hospital one run by London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, a member of the European research consortium PERFORM, led by Professor Mike Levin, Imperial College London.

He continued by outlining the background of the study as pointing that infections are still a frequent cause of consultation in paediatrics, however only few febrile children die or develop severe complications. When in primary care or in ambulatory care settings, there is an obvious need to classify children: identify those suitable to be sent back home, those in need of antibiotics and most importantly, those need referral and admissions to higher level of healthcare.

Antimicrobial resistance is due to antibiotic overuse in primary care, in general, an issue partly driven by unspecific patient history elements and clinical signs, particularly when dealing with febrile children. Hence, even WHO recommends introducing POCTs to improve antibiotic stewardship in its Global Action Plan. POCTs are delivered at the patient's bedside, and provide results in an appropriate timeframe, mostly during consultation, to help clinical decision making. Obviously, adoption of these testing methods by clinicians impact significantly their spread.

The aim of the forthcoming study is to unfold availability and use of these rapid diagnostic tests, for the clinical management of acute childhood infections across Europe. Also, the survey would hopefully help understand reasons of suspected diversity across Europe in the use of diagnostic measures in febrile children. Furthermore, it is the aim of PERFORM to develop new diagnostic tests to improve the clinical management of febrile children, results from this study may also feature additional information.

The cross-sectional survey based on the maximum 10 minutes structured online questionnaire has 3 sections: one about the availability of rapid POCTs, a second one on using diagnostic tests in the clinical scenario representing a febrile infant with no clear focus of the fever, and the last section



about the characteristics of future diagnostic tests. Recruitment of participants is through EAPRASnet, EAP and PERFORM networks. Inclusion criteria are:

- *primary care paediatricians*
- *hospital-based paediatricians, mainly: general / ID and ED paediatricians*
- *on any level of experience (that is consultants and junior doctors are also eligible)*
- *both from public and private hospitals can join*
- *from any European country*

The only exclusion is for paediatricians not clinically active.

The English questionnaire has been already disseminated at the conference of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Healthcare (RCPCH), while completing of other language versions are being developed. The survey would be launched around June, with all these language versions.

EAPRASnet Steering Committee is extremely grateful to Peter Altorjai for preparing the minutes