

Status: 30 August 2010

Vision: Cross-border cooperation of doctors and clinicians

"Breast Health" is of great interest for the population and general public in South Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein. Initiatives have already been started on both sides of the border to further improve the medical provision for the population in the area of breast health.

The central aim of the INTERREG 4A project "Cross-border Collaboration on Population Breast Health in South Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein" is to lay ground for regular cross-border medical services in prevention and treatment of breast health in the two regions.

Questionnaire: Benefits of medical cooperation

The project partners asked health practitioners and clinicians working in the field of mammography, diagnosis and breast cancer treatment about potential benefits from cross-border medical cooperation for their daily work. The results of the questionnaire showed that there is a high relevance for the cross-border exchange of professional experience and a will to learn about good practice in Germany or Denmark respectively.

Clinicians meetings

On a continuous basis, clinicians from Denmark and Germany are discussing central issues with the project partners.

Oct 2009: Results of the questionnaire and details of the pilot run. Discussions about a deeper cooperation in the field of mammography, surgery and therapy.

Jan 2010: Specifications of a common work flow regarding the exchange and reading of the radiologic images.

Jun 2010: Flyer for patient referral for treatment in Germany and standards for referral.

Oct 2010: Results of the pilot run. Planning of the final conference.

Pilot run within screening

Currently screening pictures are sent from OUH Odense to the DICOM server at the Kasenärztliche Vereinigung Schleswig-Holstein, where the participating German clinicians can pull the pictures. The German clinicians will read the pictures and diagnose the patient with help from the BIRADS scale. Subsequent, the participating clinicians will meet and compare their diagnosis. In the pilot run, 100 screening pictures will be exchanged to establish the foundation and quality assurance for future collaboration.

Next steps

- Evaluation of the pilot run
- Final conference "Cross-border cooperation is the future – Breast Health is an example" 24 November 2010 at the University of Applied Sciences Flensburg, Germany.
- Final report and summary

Coordinator

Danish and German health professionals are invited to participate to the meetings. Please contact Claus Toftgaard (claus.toftgaard@regionsyddanmark.dk) for more information.

For detailed information about the project please see www.crossborderbreasthealth.net.