FRACTURE LIAISON SERVICES IN POLAND

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In September 2014 European Foundation of Osteoporosis and Musculoskeletal Diseases (EFOM) in cooperation with the Department of Bone and Joint Diseasesof the Jagiellonian University's Medical College started a campaign in order to launch a functional Fracture Liaison Service programme in Poland.

Research and preparation resulted in publication *Skuteczne zapobieganie złamaniom osteporotycznym* (Effective ways of preventing osteoporotic fractures) in journal Medycyna po Dyplomie (Czerwiński E, Amarowicz J, Berwecka M. et al. Skuteczne zapobieganie złamaniom osteoporotycznym. Medycyna po Dyplomie . 2014. 23; 222: 33-37) along with the preparation of Guidelines. During the implementation phase one of the EFOM Board Members spent 4 days in Glasgow to learn about FLS from its roots. With information gained from the pioneers in the topic like S. Gallagher and M. Fraser and their colleagues the Foundation was able to open first FLS centre in Poland in Chrzanow on February 2nd 2015. The name chosen for FLS network in Poland was **System Zapobiegania Złamaniom** (Fracture Prevention System).

After two months, experiences from our pilot centre helped us to improve the system and allowed to organize in March 2015 the first FLS Coordinator Course in Cracow/Chrzanow. Since the inauguration of the Chrzanow centre the Foundation has organized three Courses with almost 50 attendees from 27 sites participating. **At this time (January 2016) 16 centres have become operational** [fig.1]. Three of those have already been placed on the Map of Best Practices (Capture the Fracture).

Fig 1. System Zapobiegania Złamaniom (FLS) centres in Poland

Role of the European Foundation of Osteoporosis and Musculoskeletal Diseases is to supervise and provide an efficient cooperation between the centres. In order to do so, the Foundation gathers information about patients (needed to assess the fracture risk) with the use of specially designed

questionnaires and one integrated database combining all sites. Each week coordinators participate in a teleconference during which they can share information about current issues and work together to find solutions for any pre-existing problems.

Since the start our FLS centres were in the spotlight of the press and had caused multiple interest among medical specialists in Poland. Information about our system appeared in major polish online medical media (rynekzdrowia.pl, Medycyna Praktyczna) and local television. Our first results

Fig 2. Piece of a TV material about SZZ Centre in Starachowice

were published in one of the most prestigious orthopaedic journals- Ortopedia Traumatologia Rehabilitacja.

Up to the end of 2015 approximately 1061 patients were considered to be included to the system and **of those - 984 fractures have been recognized as osteoporotic fractures**. As far as the diagnosis goes – 557 DXA scans were performed and next 361 have been scheduled. Osteoporosis treatment (oral and IV bisphosphonates, denosumab or other) was prescribed In 266 cases.

Implementation of the Fracture Liaison Services in Poland was possible thanks to the financial support of Amgen Biotechnologia Sp. z o.o. The European Foundation of Osteoporosis and Musculoskeletal Diseases is currently working on a programme addressed to the Ministry of Health, hoping this would allow to ensure the future of FLS in Poland. More information at www.osteoporoza.pl (website in polish) with our local guidelines available in English.

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