

Do French-speaking guidelines for clinical practice cover the field of practice of general practitioners?

Arnould M, Santana P, Gavid B, Raineri F, Duhot D
SFMG – French Society of General Medicine – France

Context

Since several years, « evidence-based medicine » or medicine based on current evidence, is significantly growing in general practice.

However, do the francophone guidelines include all pathologies encountered in general practice in France?

Objective

We have established an inventory of the overall francophone guidelines relating to health problems in general practice care in France.

Methods

SFMG is the author of the Dictionary of Consultation Results (CR), which includes 272 RCs covering 98% of health problems in GP care in France.

For each Consultation Result thirteen members of the SFMG have researched the corresponding guidelines on French sites (institutions, scientific societies). The research was accomplished using CR headings and equivalent keywords in MeSh. Consultation Results in DReFC (a free monthly updated downloadable document on SFMG's site) lists the references of the guidelines.

We used epidemiological data from the General Practice Observatory of the SFMG to grasp the respective magnitude of each health problem under GP care within clinical activities where no guidelines are available.

Discussion

A lack of guidelines in French offering support to physicians to rely on valid data is found in one third of the physicians' consultations.

Essentially, the establishment of guidelines involving the best conduct to select facing symptoms or syndromes seems vital.

These CRs do not include high morbidity or mortality clinical situations, however, several cause discomfort and great sufferance among patients, as well as significant costs in primary care.

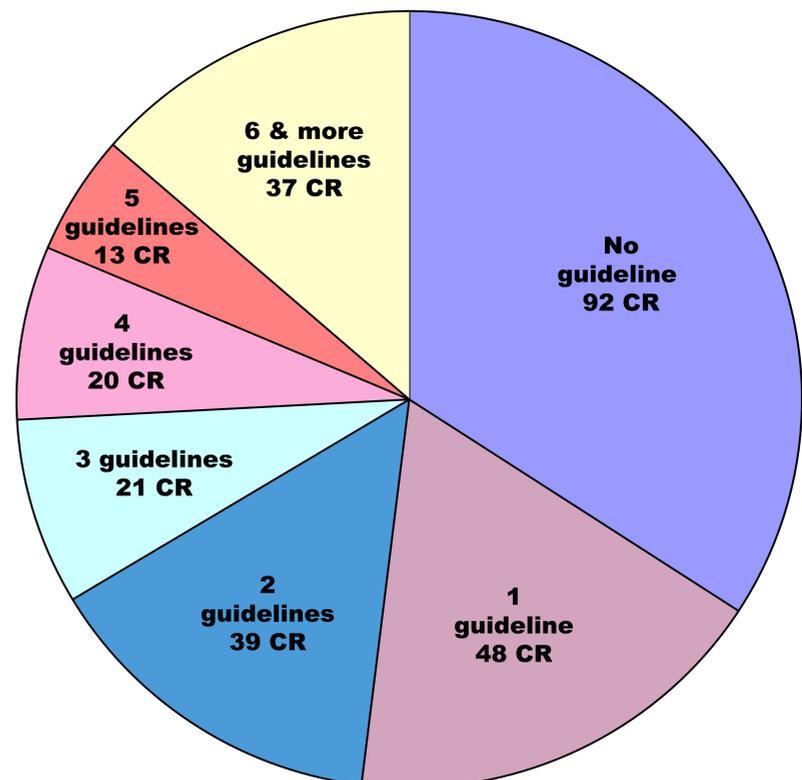
Biases of this study : Research was limited exclusively to francophone sites and practice guidelines. The French GPs' fluency in English varying, we seek establishing a practical tool available to them.

Conclusions

One third of GP activity is not covered by clinical guidelines.

Even if it happens that a monthly update provides a recently found guideline for an "orphan" CR, the French health authorities should promote and fund work on this important side of GP activity

Number of Consultation Results per number of guidelines



Consultation Results	% of consultation	Cumulative %
Morbid afebrile state	5,2 %	5,2 %
Reaction to stressful situation	2,7 %	7,9 %
Hypothyroidism	1,6 %	9,5 %
Dermatosis	1,5 %	11,0 %
Vertigo - Dizziness	1,4 %	12,4 %
post operative care	1,3 %	13,7 %
Heavy legs	1,2 %	14,9 %
Colic (syndrome)	1,0 %	15,9 %
Tenosynovitis	1,0 %	16,8 %
Conjunctivitis	0,8 %	17,6 %
Hyperuricemia	0,7 %	18,3 %
Oedema of lower extremities	0,6 %	19,0 %
Fracture	0,6 %	19,6 %
Gout	0,6 %	20,1 %
Tinnitus	0,5 %	20,7 %
Parenthesis of extremities	0,5 %	21,2 %
Nausea - vomiting	0,5 %	21,6 %
Cerumen	0,5 %	22,1 %
Hiatal hernia	0,4 %	22,5 %
Epicondylitis	0,4 %	23,0 %

Top 20 of Consultation Results without guideline

For further information:
Please contact m.arnould@sfgm.org
SFMG: www.sfgm.org
OGM: <http://omg.sfgm.org>

SFMG thanks all GPs and patients
anonymously participating to the
OGM for supplying their practice data.