

## Danish association of day surgery

Claus Toftgaard\*

Haderslev Hospital, Haderslev DK-6100, Denmark

The Danish Association was founded in 1997 by a group of professionals from Vejle Hospital after having had several visits from Paul Jarret from the IAAS. Vejle Hospital had been active in day surgery for several years and was now rearranging the day surgery unit in order to improve in efficiency and in patient service. Since the beginning of international day surgery congresses, Denmark had been very well represented with many delegates to each congress—latest in London 1997, where the British secretary of health in her speech wondered if there were any doctors left in Denmark at the time for the congress. Therefore Paul Jarret suggested a Danish national association to be formed and with some support from the hospital management the Vejle group to up the challenge.

Now after 6 years the situation is the following.

- The association has about 400 personal and 15 company members. The members are doctors from all specialties involved in day surgery, nurses, managers, secretaries, and representatives from instrument and drug companies.
- There is one yearly day meeting in the springtime with about 300 delegates at every meeting and one half-day meeting in the autumn in connection to the general assembly. The association performs a yearly survey of the percentages of day surgery procedures in the country and in the health regions (counties) in regard to the IAAS basket of day surgery procedures.
- The association has been represented by the president in national groups counselling the ministry regarding DRG pricing of day surgery procedures and in national surveys of day surgery activity and organisation. We have a web site (<http://www.dsdk.dk>) that is frequently updated and having links to other day surgery sites. A newsletter is sent to the members four times a year.
- Denmark has been well represented at the IAAS congresses and we have been members of the IAAS since 1998 and there taken part in the IAAS general assemblies.

Also contributions to the congress programs have been frequent even by invitation by the congress committees. The congress in 2011 is planned to take place in Denmark.

Some examples of the activity in DK:

Year	2001 (%)	2002 (%)
Total	73.1	73.9
Cataract	94.5	94.2
Varicose veins	64.1	72.4
Inguinal hernia	67.1	69.2
Haemorrhoids	73	76.4
Open breast: biopsy	56.2	54.7
Transur. Bladder	27.4	26.2
Carpal tunnel	73.3	71.3
Bunion	72.4	72.9
Remov. Implant	76.8	77.9
Knee arthrosc.	90.4	91
Arthr. Meniscus	89.8	90.1
Lap. Chol.	13.1	14.1
Male sterilisat.	99.6	99.6
Female sterilisat.	92.2	91.80/0
Termin Pregnan	97.0	97.3
Tonsillectomv	32.1	33.20/0
Adenoidectornv	60.6	1.2
Colonoscopy w/	90.3	90.5
Total	227.968	211.795

And some example of the differences between the percentages in different health regions (counties):

	Best (%)	Worst (%)
Carpal tunnel	97.9	48.1
Cataract	100	51
Varicose vein	96.2	27.8
In uinal hernia	94.6	45.5
Knee arthrosc.	100	67.3
Lap. Chol.	71.7	0

\* Tel.: +45-74273501; fax: +45-74273600.

E-mail address: [claus.toftgaard@hs.sja.dk](mailto:claus.toftgaard@hs.sja.dk) (C. Toftgaard).

Table (Continued)

	Best (%)	Worst (%)
Female ster.	100	55.0
Tonsillectomy	96.6	65.3
Tonsillectomy +	78.2	0

It may be concluded that Denmark is in front in western Europe regarding the percentage of day surgery procedures. However there is still a potential for improvement primarily by reaching the same level in all counties but also by moving against day surgery for more in-patient procedures.