

Atlases of variation for elective surgery to tackle wasteful care

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Background

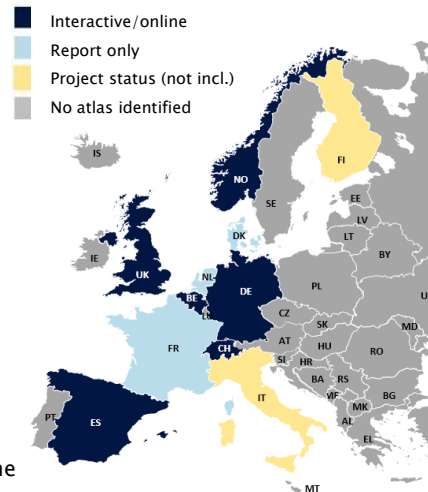
- The OECD suggests robust information systems as one of five measures to tackle wasteful care.
- Atlases of variation intend to identify variations that may not be medically justified.
- Aims of this study: to detect atlases that target variations in the provision of elective surgery and to analyse the interventions that have been addressed

Results

12 international atlases included

	Atlas	n	IA
DE	Faktencheck Gesundheit, Bertelsmann Stiftung	9	x
DE	OP-Atlas Deutschland (WDR)	11	x
FR	Atlas des variations de pratiques médicales	11	-
GB	NHS Compendiums	6	x
NL	item4-MPVproject-Netherlands	3	-
NO	Helseatlas	12	x
ES	Atlas of Variations in Medical Practice in the Spanish National Health System (VPM)	23	x
CH	Versorgungsatlas Schweiz	25	x
BE	For a healthy Belgium- medical practice variations	21	x
AU	Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation	14	x
NZ	Atlas of Healthcare Variation NZ	2	x
US	Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care Series	6	x

n number of analysed surgical interventions, IA interactive version/ online available



Methods

- Online search for atlases of variation on websites, selective literature search in PubMed, contact of public health institutes
- Inclusion criteria: online and/ or paper-based atlases that analyse data on elective surgery; Exclusion criteria: other atlases (e.g., epidemiological)
- Transfer of basic (e.g., on country, language and methods) and specific information on atlases into predefined data extraction scheme

Results and Conclusions

- ~70 different surgical interventions analysed, most often:
 - interventions to treat diseases of the musculoskeletal system (11 atlases: e.g., knee (9), hip (7) and spinal (4) surgery),
 - interventions to treat diseases of the digestive system (9 atlases: e.g., appendectomy (6), cholecystectomy (6), bariatric surgery (4)),
 - interventions to treat diseases of the genitourinary system (8 atlases: e.g., prostatectomy (6), hysterectomy (5)),
 - caesarean sections (8)
- (Number of) Analysed interventions might point out known problem areas across countries
- Atlases cannot solve the problem of inappropriate care, but help prioritise areas of actions with the greatest need and the best chances to improve the quality of care