

## **OP08.2**

### **Procedures, tests and medical equipment in Nordic general practice**

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**Background and Aim:** All Nordic countries have well-functioning public health care systems, but the organisation of these systems vary somewhat. Detailed information about the specific features of Nordic general practice is scarce. We aim to obtain more knowledge concerning what equipment and on-site tests are available and which medical procedures are performed in primary care in the Nordic countries, and whether there are differences between the countries.

**Methods:** We used data from the international study Quality and Costs of primary Care in Europe (QUALICOPC). A total of 875 general practitioners (GPs) from the Nordic countries answered a questionnaire concerning their practices in the period 2011 to 2012. Information from 198 Norwegian, 97 Swedish, 212 Danish, 288 Finnish and 80 Icelandic GPs is included. The GPs were asked to what extent they perform a predefined selection of medical procedures, and to indicate equipment and laboratory tests available in practice from a predefined list.

**Results:** Almost all Nordic GPs had standard medical equipment such as blood pressure meters, suture sets, urine catheters and blood glucose tests. Some differences were found: In Finland, about 1/3 of GPs had gastroscopes, sigmoidoscopes and bicycle ergometers, while this equipment was very uncommon in the other Nordic countries. In Denmark, hardly any of the GPs had eye tonometers, in contrast to almost all Norwegian and Finnish GPs. Most Danish and Norwegian GPs inserted intrauterine devices, whereas this was uncommon in Sweden and Iceland.

**Conclusion:** Nordic GPs are well-equipped and perform a wide spectre of medical procedures, but there are some interesting differences. The reasons for these differences may be sought among structural factors such as the remuneration systems and access to other specialities. Varying treatment traditions may also be of importance.