

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Title | SwissOsteoSurvey – Describing osteopaths’ scope of practice within the Swiss health system; a practice review study |
| Acronyme | SwissOsteoSurvey |
| Statut (date start – end) | November 2016 – février 2018 |
| Principle investigator (site) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Vaucher (HES-SO – Haute école de santé Fribourg) |
| Co-supervisor (site) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dawn Carnes (HES-SO – Haute école de santé Fribourg) |
| Collaborators (site) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roy Macdonald (HES-SO – Haute école de santé Fribourg) |
| Financial sources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fondation pour la promotion de l'enseignement et de la recherche en ostéopathie HES-SO – Ra&D domaine Santé |
| Abstract | <p>Background: In Switzerland, we estimate there are over 1000 working practitioners who have an “inter-cantonal” diploma in osteopathy and are delivering care in all 26 cantons. In 2014, the University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland opened a bilingual program in Fribourg to deliver a master’s degree in osteopathy. In June 2016, the Swiss Parliament and the House of States adopted the Law on Allied Health (GesBG/LPSan) that recognised osteopathy as a primary care health profession. Little is known however about how and to what extent osteopaths contribute to public health and the services they offer. Osteopaths have identified that they need to support a study to profile their activity. The Unit of Musculoskeletal Research, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Applied Sciences and the Arts Western Switzerland (HES-SO) have been commissioned by the Foundation for Promoting Education and Research in Osteopathy to undertake this research.</p> <p>Objectives: The aim of this study is to describe osteopathic activity, scope of practice and their patients’ profile to understand their role within the Swiss health system. This study will provide information and data to describe the profession, to help formulate teaching goals, plan ongoing training, identify research priorities, and provide data for stakeholder negotiation.</p> <p>Method and Design: We will use a practice review survey to investigate osteopathic practice and their patient profiles. We estimate that we will need between 400 and 500 osteopaths to participate in the survey and describe around 2,300 patients for a representative sample size. Both osteopaths and osteopath assistants are to be included. All osteopaths registered to the National Registry of Allied Health Professionals (NAREG) will be approached by mail to participate in the survey. Inclusion criteria is to have an inter-cantonal diploma in osteopathy (GDK-CDS diploma). Assistant osteopaths (those having passed the first inter-cantonal exam) will be approached via the Association of Osteopathic Assistants, via the Conference of Sanitary Directors (GDK-CDS) organizing the exams, and via supervising osteopaths. The study is organised in three phases. The first a pilot phase is designed to develop and validate the questionnaire and to test the feasibility of using patient records to report patient profile. The second phase is the survey for which we will be using a web based online system. It will include a cross-sectional survey designed to describe osteopaths’ profile and working environments. Each participating osteopath will then be asked to select eight random new patient health records for encounters that took place in 2015 and extract data from these records. This retrospective descriptive record review is</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <p>designed to describe the new patient and their encounters over a one-year period. The final phase of this study is the dissemination of the results and the promotion of the survey instrument.</p> <p>Significance and impact: We hope this study will help to develop a continuing culture of research within the osteopathic profession in Switzerland as it is a professional initiative supported by academics. The survey questionnaire will be a validated and this instrument will be a resource for future osteopaths to monitor their activity. The data from the survey will enable international comparison and help define national priorities for the profession within the global international strategy. At a national level, the results are expected to help osteopaths better describe themselves to other health professions and the public to enable osteopathy to be recognised as a valued primary care provider in the Swiss healthcare system. Having a better insight in what osteopaths do will also be very valuable for professionals to plan for the future and determine research priorities.</p> |
| Field / academic partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fédération Suisse des Ostéopathes (http://osteopathes-suisse.ch/) • Fédération Suisse des Assistants en Ostéopathie (www.fsoa-svoa.ch) • Fédération Suisse des Patients (www.federationdespatients.ch) |
| Contact | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paul.vaucher@hefr.ch • +41 26 429 60 41 |
| Valorisation (publications, conferences, congress) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of project general assembly FSO-SVO April 2016 • Site internet du projet : https://www.osteopathyfoundation.ch/fr/projets--recherche/recherches-effectuees • Rapport du projet : cliquer ici |