



Number of Diabetic Children Rapidly Rising

- **Every day 200 children in the world are diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes**
- **Study revealed significant variations in the quality of treatment for childhood diabetes**
- **SWEET: service centres to ensure better diagnosis, control and secondary prevention for diabetics**

European Health Forum Gastein, 2007. At the 10th European Health Forum in Bad Gastein the International Organization for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD) called attention to the alarming increase in the incidence of Type 1 Diabetes to five percent of preschool-age children. Type 1 Diabetes is one of the most significant childhood diseases. Altogether there are approximately 440,000 children afflicted worldwide. The number of new cases is estimated to be 200 daily. Within Europe Finland is in first place, in Japan, on the other hand, the illness is hardly present.

A study at 18 diabetes centres throughout Europe showed significant variations in the treatment of diabetes among children. The study measured the HbA1c value, which shows how much glucose is attached to the hemoglobin cells and therefore determines the quality of treatment over the preceding eight-ten weeks. It showed considerable differences not only between individual countries, but between children's diabetes centres within one and the same country. So far special treatment for children in their own diabetes centres has only been stipulated by law in Italy.

With the SWEET project a public health programme has been created at the request of ISPAD which aims to establish service centres for pediatric and adolescent diabetes. "The most important aim of SWEET is the improvement of secondary prevention as well as the diagnosis and control of Type 1 Diabetes among children and adolescents. To this end SWEET supports the development of diabetes reference centres throughout Europe," says Thomas Danne, the Secretary General of ISPAD. The primary aim is to analyse how many children there are in Europe with Type 1 Diabetes and what educational and further training opportunities there are for multidisciplinary team of doctors, nutritionists, etc. The content of training is to be streamlined and analyses carried out about the existing guidelines for the treatment of children and specifically how service centres for children's diabetes can be built.

Further information:

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