ECS-shoulder project,

high satisfaction and reduced referral of shoulder pain patients after assessment of specialized physiotherapists in primary care setting.





Introduction/ objective

In the Netherlands General Practitioners (GPs) apply the national clinical practice shoulder-guideline, stating that in patients with ongoing Shoulder Pain (SP > 6 weeks), a referral to a shoulder-orthopaedic surgeon is a plausible consideration. A large number of patients are referred which could have been treated sufficiently in primary care; as most patients (more than 50%) were seeing just once and were referred back.

<u>Objective</u> of the ECS-shoulder project was to realize a better referral of SP-patients, leading to less unnecessary referrals with preservation of quality of healthcare, a win – win – win situation (patient – professional – society).

Method/ practical setting

In the ECS-shoulder project GPs could refer SP-patients to a PT-clinic were 2 shoulder-specialized physical therapists (PTs) analysed the patients to answer the main question: Are clinical signs and symptoms present that motivate a referral to an orthopedic surgeon?

Participating PTs, trained to realize a standardized clinical evaluation combined with structured MSU, produced a baseline database with 18 variables, clear answers upon a number of questions and YES/ NO.

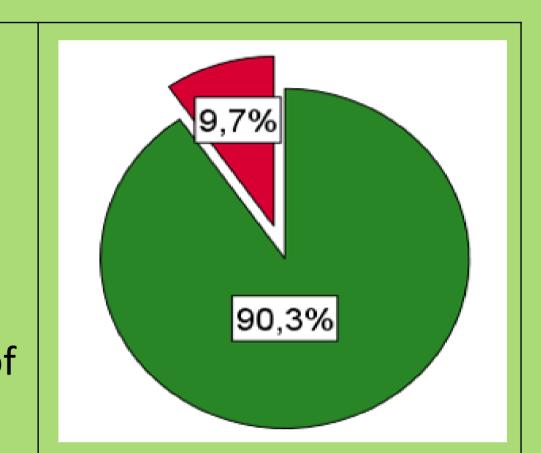
To evaluate satisfaction and meaningfulness also on a longer term, a post-ECS survey with 16 questions is offered after a follow-up of at least 4 months.

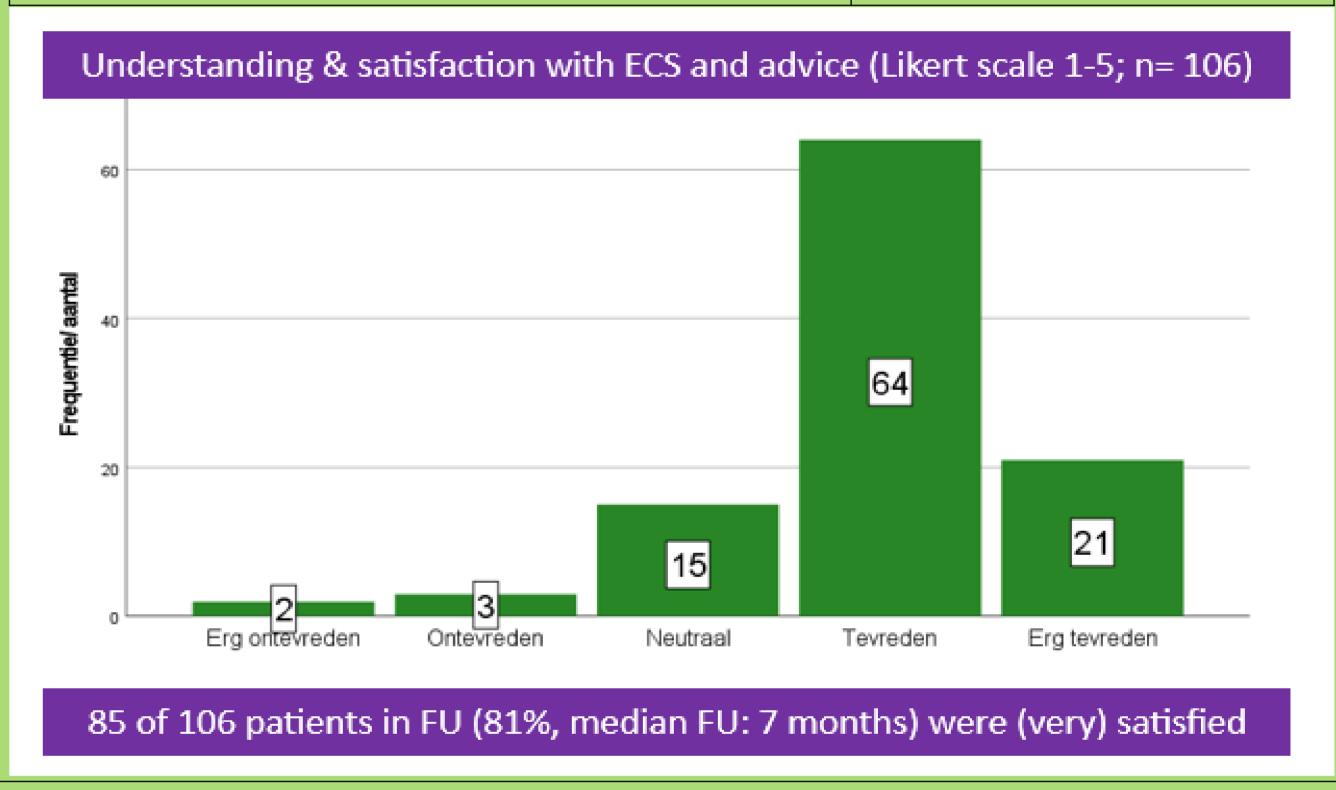
Results: inclusion at baseline (n=232), ECS-advise (n=207) and ECS-Follow-up (n= 106)

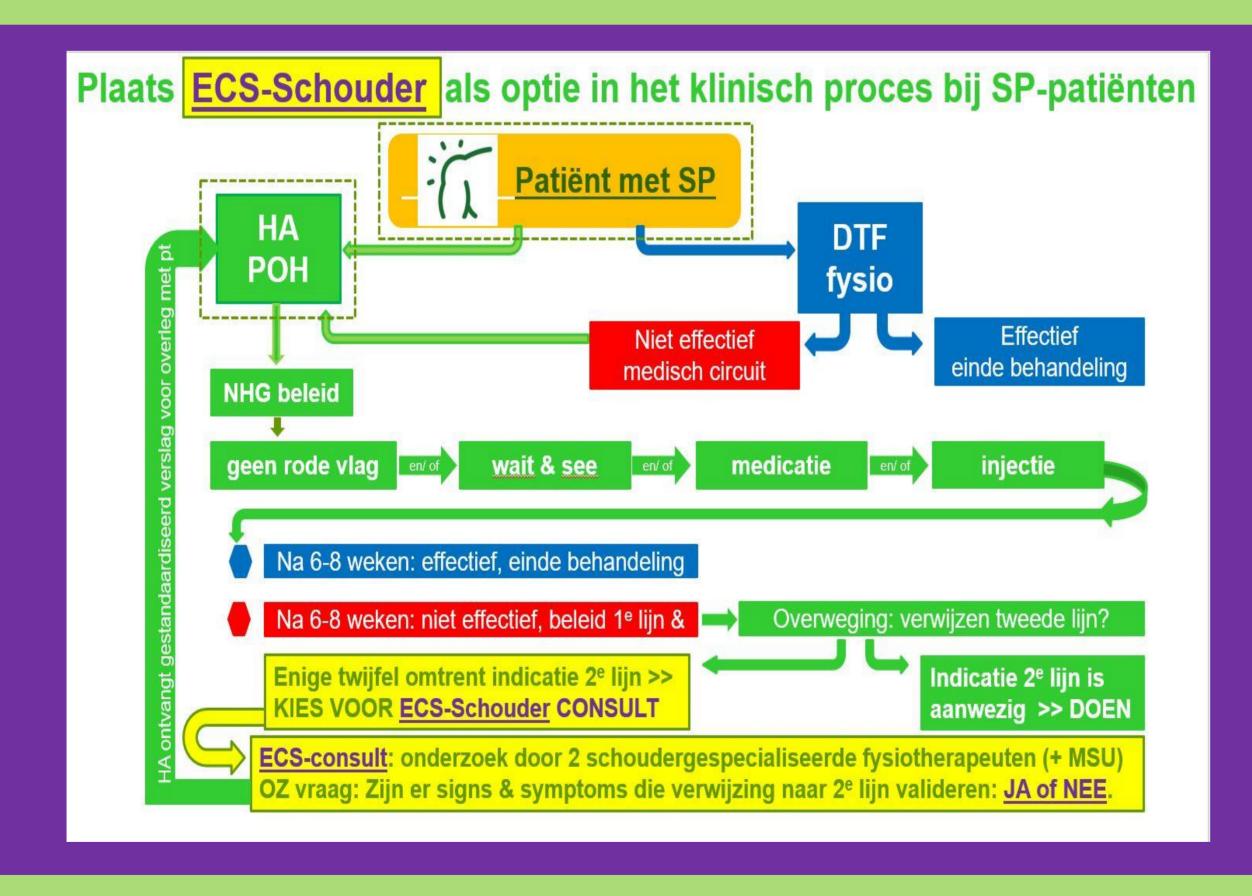
Characteristics baseline	N total	Unit	Score total	Score first line (n= 187)	Score second line (n= 20)
Age	232	Mn (SD)	56,6 (15,2)	56,5 (14,8)	57,4 (15,1)
Gender (% female)	228	%	55,7	56,2	55,0
Duration ShoulderPain (SP) in months	203	Mn (SD)	14,2 (27,7)	12,9 (25,8)	13,4 (27,8)
Able to work despite ShoulderPain (SP)	158	%	79,7	79,9	77,9
Active involved with sport	132	%	79,5	77,9	88,8
Able to perform sport despite SP	114	%	64,9	60,4	75,0
Using medication for SP	232	%	48,3	50,5	55,0
Earlier Physio because of the SP	232	%	44,4	44,0	60,0
Earlier injections (CSI) because of SP	232	%	23,3	22,5	35,0
Earlier surgery on this shoulder	232	%	5,2	5,3	5,0
3S list (0-10; higher= unfavorable)	127	Mn (SD)	4,1 (1,9)	4,1 (2,0)	4,2 (1,3)
NPRS (0-10; higher= unfavorable)	191	Mn (SD)	6,5 (1,6)	6,5 (1,5)	5,8 (1,7)
PSEQ (0-60; higher= favorable)	126	Mn (SD)	40,8 (12,2)	40,6 (12,4)	43,5 (10,4)
SPADI-pain (0-100; higher= unfavorable)	125	Mn (SD)	58,6 (17,8)	58,6 (17,9)	64,5 (14,5)
SPADI-function (higher= unfavorable)	125	Mn (SD)	44,7 (20,3)	44,6 (20,2)	51,5 (20,7)
Present biomechanical SP-course	219	%	52,5	55,5	47,0
Positive findings in MSU (lesions)	222	%	58,1	58,9	57,8

Results ECS-shoulder policlinic.

Of the included 207 patients referred by GPs: 187 patients (90,3%) got the advice to stay in the first line for evaluation and treatment and 20 patients (9,7%) had signs and symptoms validating a referral to the second line (most of the time an orthopedic surgeon).











Conclusion/ value for shoulder-physios

Appropriate healthcare for SP-patients is realized if shoulder-specialized PTs, help GPs to evaluate which patients with ongoing SP should be referred to an orthopedic surgeon.

The number of referred patients is reduced; patients remain satisfied and regional shoulder care is more accessible and affordable.

The intended win – win – win situation is realized. It's advisable for shoulder specialized physios to get this role.

Thank you to:



5 ECS-shoulder policlinics in Twente

Poli 1: Enschede Noordoost
(Glanerbrug, Losser, Lonneker, Overdinkel)
FYON, Schoolstraat 17, 7534 CB Enschede
Poli 2: Enschede Stadsveld
(Enschede, Boekelo, evt. Haaksbergen)
FYON, S.L. Louwesstraat 21, 7545 ER Enschede
Poli 3: Hengelo – Borne
(Delden, Deurningen)
Fysio Fit, Theresiaplein 1a04, 7622 HK Borne
Poli 4: Oldenzaal
(de Lutte, Denekamp, Losser)
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Poli 5: Goor
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