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THE ITALIAN ARTHROPLASTY REGISTRY: ESSENTIAL ISSUES FOR ITS LARGE IMPLEMENTATION
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Introduction: The Italian Arthroplasty Registry (RIAP) started in 2006 as a pilot project: a federation of regional
registries coordinated by the Italian National Institute of Health. Data collection uses Hospital Discharge
Records (HDR) integrated by a specific Minimum Data Set (MDS). Since then, eleven regions have been
voluntarily enrolled. RIAP is funded by the Ministry of Health (MoH) to support the activities related to the
vigilance and surveillance of the medical devices market. To achieve a high coverage and collect data of high
quality, two essential issues need to be faced: 1) make the participation mandatory; 2) provide the
surgeons with useful tools for a correct identification of the implanted devices.

Methods: A national law introducing the registries of the implanted devices was approved by the Italian
parliament in December 2012. All the regions participating in the RIAP were stimulated to develop
administrative procedures to improve the data collection, according to each specific regional context. A close
cooperation with the devices' manufacturers was established to build up a comprehensive and structured
database of the implanted devices.

Results: Some regions subjected the reimbursement to the participation in the project. Others included MDS in
HDR. Data from fifteen manufacturers (~54,000 reference codes) were collected, covering 69% of the implanted
devices at national level.

Discussion: By June 2014 the MoH will give the regions specific rules for collecting data, making it mandatory.
The network and the tools developed within the RIAP project will be useful for a quick and effective
implementation of the national registry.