

PRESS RELEASE

Late diagnosis and slow drug approval are the greatest barriers to multiple myeloma treatment and care

Berlin, 27 February 2007 – Advanced disease stage due to late diagnosis and the slow drug approval process constitute the two greatest barriers to myeloma treatment and care, according to an international survey conducted by Myeloma Euronet, the European network of myeloma patient groups, between May and October 2006.

The survey participants, 95 physicians and 42 patients and patient relatives, mainly from European countries, also stated that unclear or missing symptoms are the greatest barrier to myeloma diagnosis in their countries.

“The purpose of this survey was not only to find out what physicians, patients and patient relatives consider the greatest barriers to myeloma diagnosis, treatment, and care, but also what they feel should be done to overcome those barriers,” says Anita Waldmann, President of Myeloma Euronet.

Even though the majority of survey participants rated the overall standards of myeloma diagnosis, treatment and care in their countries very high or above average, patients and patient relatives claimed that better education and information of healthcare professionals, including General Practitioners, is the most important step to be taken to overcome existing barriers to myeloma diagnosis, treatment and care.

Physicians shared this opinion only as it relates to the diagnosis of myeloma and considered tackling cost or reimbursement issues the most important step to overcome barriers to myeloma treatment and care in their countries, followed by faster drug approval and the availability of, and access to, treatment options.

Multiple myeloma is an increasingly common form of bone marrow cancer which is incurable but treatable. It affects more than 77,000 people in Europe at any one time. A full survey report is available for download at www.myeloma-euronet.org.

Further information:

Myeloma Euronet

Anita Waldmann, President

Secretariat Tel.: +49 (0)30 28879755

info@myeloma-euronet.org