

sufferers, on health services and on existing networks. Information for Malta was lacking wherefore it was decided to set about undertaking a national survey among adults in Malta. This was completed over the past 6 months.

Methods:

A cross sectional survey was undertaken across the Maltese islands with a nationally representative sample taken and approached by telephone interview in 2017. The validated SF-36v2[®] Health Survey tool with 36 questions to measure functional health and well-being from the patient's point of view was used. This tool was utilised by other European countries, covered the experience of pain and impact on the psycho-social aspects of person's life as well as the choice of healthcare resources, if any.

Results:

Almost 40% of the population was in some pain for over the past 2 years.

22% reported themselves as in moderate to severe pain, impacting greatly on life quality.

More than 1 in 4 persons treated for pain was unhappy with their pain control. Most persons approached their GP as the primary care provider.

There were considerable differences by socio-economic group and by age.

Conclusions:

Pain in Malta was as common as most countries in Europe. Mechanisms to counter pain were often fruitless and many accepted pain without demanding services. Work and life quality were greatly impacted upon by pain with divergences across social class.

Key messages:

- Chronic pain is frequently present and often goes uncontrolled among adults in Malta as across Europe.
- Policies and services to address chronic pain fall short of reducing the great impact on quality of life among chronic pain sufferers.

The prevalence of chronic pain among adults and its control

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Background:

There have been attempts to quantify the growing number of persons living with chronic pain across the ageing population of Europe and to investigate the impact on the lives of