



## International Conference: Evidence in Global Disability and Health

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## **ABSTRACT**

**Title:**                      **Global spread of Ponseti treatment for children with clubfoot**

**Abstract text (limited to 300 words, should include background, methods, results and conclusions):**

### **Background**

Clubfoot affects 1 in 750 babies and can cause severe disability if untreated. The Ponseti treatment is successful in more than 90% of cases, resulting in fully functional feet. This study aimed to assess provision of and access to services for clubfoot in low and middle-income countries (LMIC) in 2013.

### **Methods**

Data collection was by survey in November – December 2014. We requested data from 52 countries with programmes for clubfoot. Data collected included numbers enrolled for Ponseti treatment, numbers of Ponseti clinics, children starting first foot abduction brace (FAB) and types and sources of support for programmes.

### **Results**

22 organisations and/or individuals provided data representing 39 countries and 487 clinics, a 69% response rate. 91% reported they were part of a national network of service providers.

A total of 21,515 children were enrolled for Ponseti treatment.

- 86% of these were less than 2 years old at start of treatment
- 83% of those starting treatment received their first FAB.
- 28% of 'expected cases' were enrolled for treatment across all countries, increased from 19% in 2011.
- 59% of countries enrolled less than 50% of expected cases for treatment but 23% enrolled more than 100%.
- Comparing data for 17 countries for 2009, 2011 and 2013 showed an increase in children enrolled of 94% in 2009-2011 and 53% in 2011-2013.

Qualitative data indicated that Ministries of Health provide the majority of direct resources to programmes including clinic space and staff. External support from NGOs was also important, providing funding for consumables, logistical support and training of staff.

### **Conclusions**

More children born with clubfoot in LMIC are accessing Ponseti treatment each year and great progress has been made globally. However the majority of children born with clubfoot do not receive treatment and more services and better access to these are needed.

**Deadline for abstract submission: November 30, 2015**

Please submit your abstract to: [disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk)

**Restricted to one first author abstract per participant.**

If you have any questions, please write to:

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