ROMSE - A web-based register for orofacial manifestations in people with rare diseases

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Introduction

Public focus on rare diseases has increased in the European Union since 2009 when the council of the European Union recommended that the member states develop and implement plans and strategies for rare diseases at suitable levels or validate suitable measures for rare diseases within the scope of other health protection strategies in order to ensure that patients suffering from rare diseases receive good medical care ¹. In particular, member states were called upon to develop and accept a corresponding plan by the end of 2013. In 2013, the German Cabinet adopted the National Action League for People with Rare Diseases (NAMSE). This national action plan comprises a total of 52 suggested measures and 7 action fields. One of these action fields concerns the development of registers². With this in mind, a project was initiated in 2011 that aims to develop a "Register for the Recording of Orofacial Manifestations in People with Rare Diseases" (ROMSE). This register should supply general practitioners, dentists, orthodontists, oral surgeons, oral and maxillofacial surgeons, patients, and their relations with targeted information on intraoral, perioral and extra oral changes, diagnostics, and specialised area-related therapy options when treating rare diseases.

Material and Methods

Starting in 2011 material from various databases (Orphanet, e-medicine, Gene Clinics, EMA, OMIM) as well as from PubMed, medical literature, and "grey literature" was collected and evaluated. Since 2013 the gathered information has been incorporated into a web-based, freely accessible register at http://romse.org. All rare diseases with orofacial manifestations are registered with current subject-specific literature and properly categorised.

In a systematic study of literature in the Orphanet data base, the list of rare diseases recorded there was examined for orofacial pathological changes. In this process rare diseases that showed at least one orofacial component in the Orphanet or OMIM descriptions were integrated into an electronic register. Besides the general pathography, the specific orofacial changes as well as scientific literature and website links were compiled.

Results

474 rare diseases with orofacial manifestations have been listed in the ROMSE register so far. To date, 109 categories for orofacial manifestations such as dental anomalies, dysgnathia or orofacial clefts have been set up. The register has been publicly accessible since 2014 and has been used as a source of information for the diagnostics and therapy of rare diseases with orofacial symptoms. ROMSE is also linked to other databases and information platforms for rare diseases.

Figures



Figure 1: Selected example "Pemphigus vulgaris" listed in the ROMSE register

Kategorie: Mundschleimhaut, blasenbildend Seiten in der Kategorie "Mundschleimhaut, blasenbildend" Es werden 11 von insgesamt 11 Seiten in dieser Kategorie angezeigt: E E (Fortsetzung) E (

Figure 2: Selected example "blistering diseases" listed in the ROMSE register

Main groups of orofacial manifestations in the ROMSE register	
Anomalies of the lips (without clefts)	43
Dysgnathia	145
Hematopathia	11
Neoplasia	25
Alterations in the oral mucosa and tongue	135
Bone pathologies	11
Anomalies of the cleft	145
Dental anomalies	190
Others	36

Figure 3: Main groups of orofacial manifestations in the ROMSE register $\,$

Conclusions

More than 900 rare diseases can be demonstrated to have a dental, oral, or maxillofacial involvement. Since publications on rare diseases and data on possible care strategies in dental medicine are scant, there is an urgent need to provide the limited available information on a central and publicly accessible platform. This justifies the implementation of a "Register for the Recording of Orofacial Manifestations in People with Rare Diseases" (http://romse.org) as a source of information for physicians, scientists, patients, and their relatives; this also complies with the National Action League for People with Rare Diseases, in which the suggested measure no. 29 is an "Open Source Register System for Rare Diseases in the EU – OSSE"². In the age of digitalisation and global access to online databases, this register, which is in the development stage, should help physicians and scientists to download information on aspects of dental medicine or oral/maxillofacial surgery in rare diseases, exchange views, and form networks. Patients and their relatives can also use the central web-based register to find comprehensive information on the existing disease and the possible care options. Information compiled in a register can serve to create a solid foundation for the generation of adequate data and a basis to optimise future diagnosis and therapy as well as increase the evidence³. This demand also has validity for dental medicine. Work has already commenced on the development of an English-language version of the register presented here so that it may be put to global use.

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- Literature

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- 3. Grouven U, Siering U, Bender R, Vervölgyi R, Lange S. Seltene Erkrankungen: Randomisierte kontrollierte Studien auch hier der Goldstandard. Deutsches Ärzteblatt 2015; 112(8) A 326-8.