

Focus group guideline (Project: "Identification of barriers and difficulties involved in the process of diagnosing somatic symptom disorders in primary care")

A) Presentation of the first part of the vignette
A1) Which problems/difficulties do you face at this point? A2) What would you do with this patient?
B) Presentation of the second part of the vignette
B1) Which problems/difficulties do you face now? B2) What impedes diagnosing a somatoform disorder for this patient? B3) How do you recognize such a disorder? B4) How do you document such a disorder? B5) How do you communicate your (suspected) diagnosis to the patient? B6) Which feelings and behaviors does the patient's behavior elicit in you?
C) Empirical studies name different possible consequences of a delayed diagnosis of somatoform disorders: unnecessary somatic diagnostics, delayed start of treatment, iatrogenic harm, e.g. through unnecessary invasive diagnostics or operations. Being a general practitioner you have an important function in the management of these patients. Therefore we are interested to hear your thoughts on the following aspects: C1) How do you identify a patient having a somatoform disorder? C2) Which aids do you use to identify these patients? C3) What would help you to diagnose a somatoform disorder? C4) How do the ICD-10 criteria influence your daily practice with these patients?