

Open Space Meeting / January 13th 2018

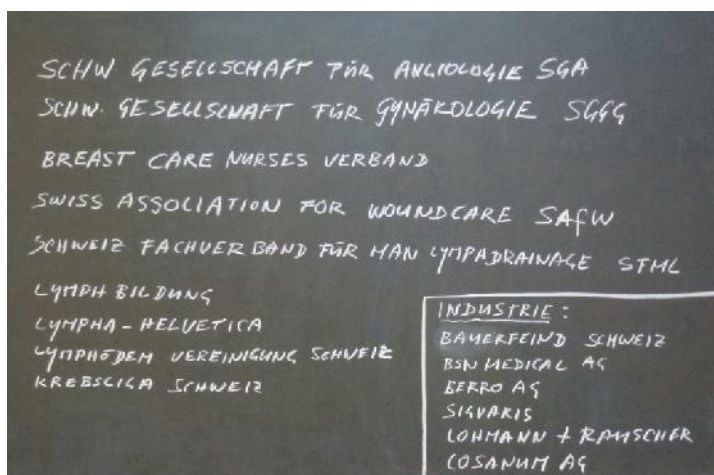
Saturday, January 13th 2018 was a remarkable day for the Swiss Lymphoedema Framework (founded in 2016).

We had organised an Open Space Meeting with the aim to take stock of as many lymphological services as possible - from diagnosis to therapy to long-term management - and to discuss the standing of lymphology in Switzerland.



Susan Nørregaard (left) and Prof. Christine Moffatt from the International Lymphoedema Framework ILF chaired the meeting and did a great job.

Twenty-five people from nine organisations (including patients) and six industrial companies engaged in dedicated discussions, recording both existing services and gaps in supply.

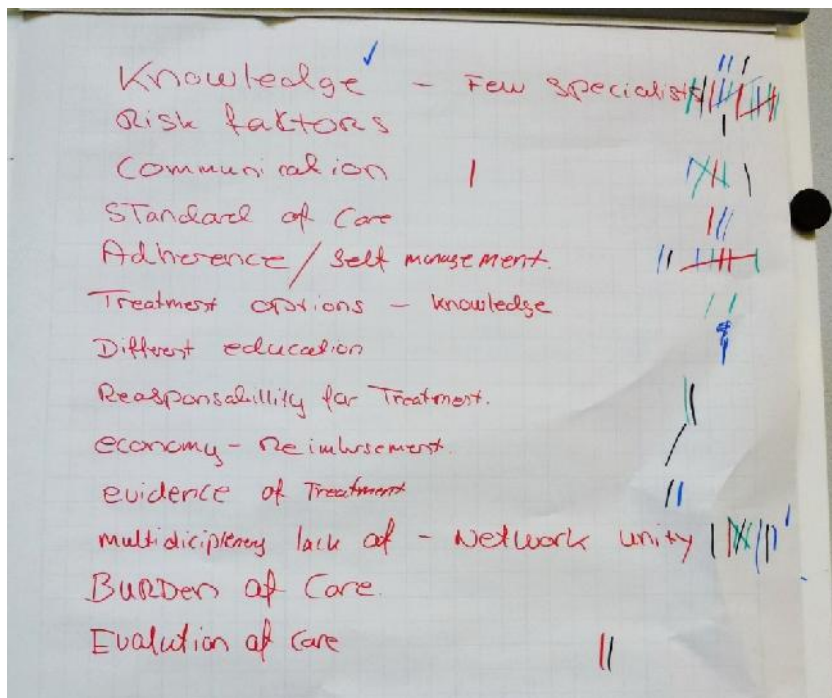


The initial question was:

What are the barriers that prevent or hinder good care for people with chronic edema?



The resulting findings were presented by each group on flipcharts and then prioritized by all participants. Each of them identified the three most important topics for him or her.



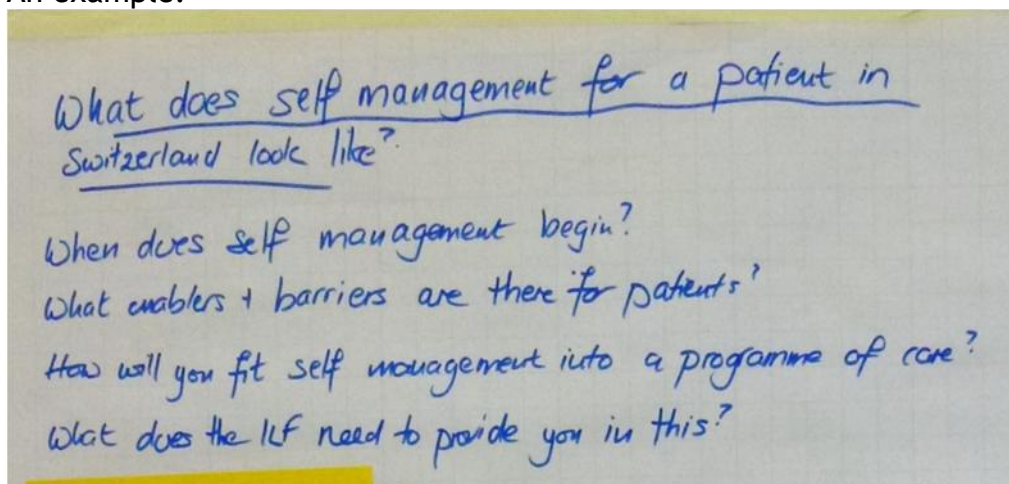
The five resulting main categories were:

- Knowledge
- Multi-disciplinary teams

- Self-management
- Agreed Standard of care
- Networking

These five resulting main categories were then further explored. Christine and Susan wrote them down - each with a few questions, including the one of what the ILF could contribute to the accomplishment of this task.

An example:



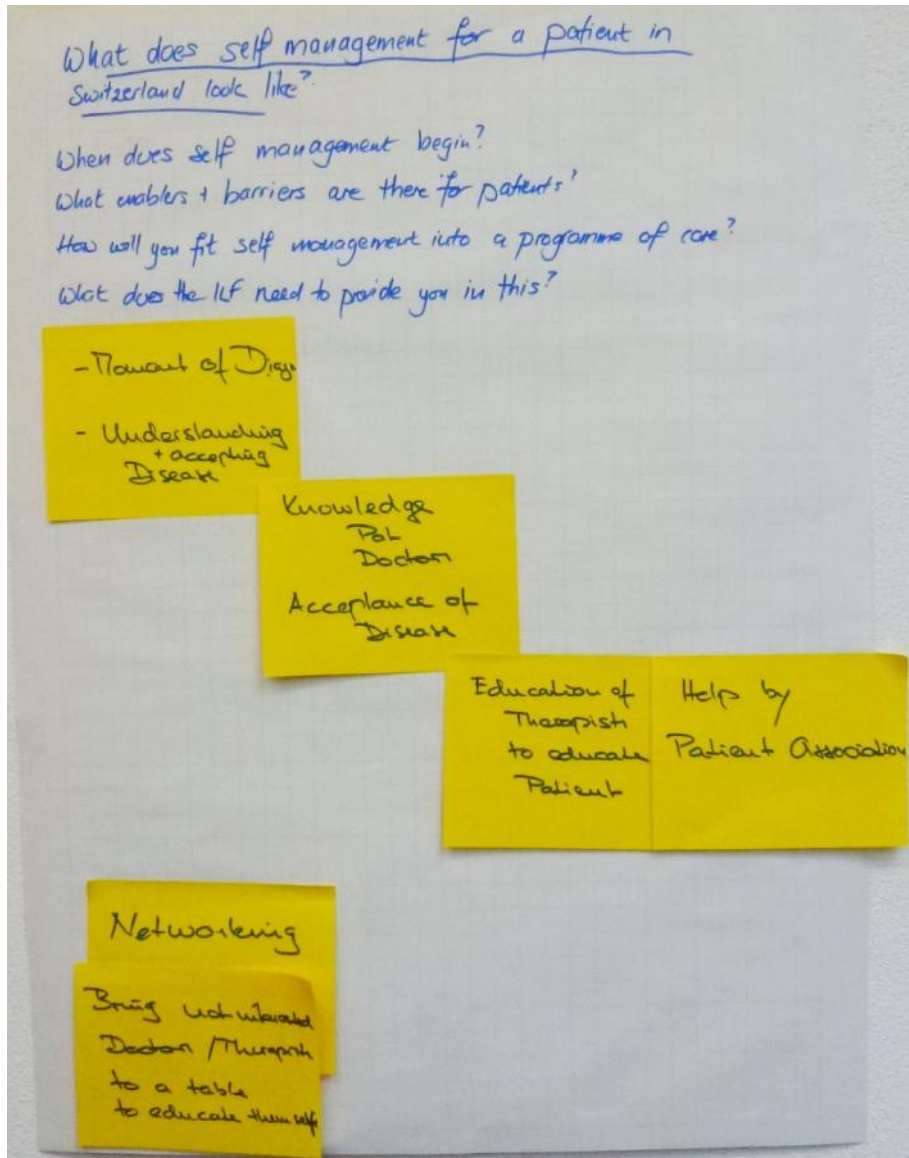
Ideally, these questions should lead to the drawing up of a practical strategy for overcoming this specific barrier. That resulted in lively discussions and ultimately also in valuable results.

Conclusion

Yes, they do exist - the barriers that prevent high-quality treatment of those affected by chronic oedema in Switzerland. They can be found on many levels - not least in the fact that chronic oedema is of very low importance throughout the health care system (a fact on which all the participants agreed).

As we experienced on this Saturday, however, there are also strategies to overcome these barriers successfully.

With the Swiss Lymphoedema Framework as umbrella organisation and the International Lymphoedema Framework as a strong and committed partner, we should be able to bundle our forces effectively and work together to reduce these barriers.



How to proceed?

First, we from SLF are very encouraged by the commitment we have experienced on this day. For the first time, representatives of so many lymphology organisations have met up.

What we need now is commitment from all sides. We are striving to maintain the contacts that we have been able to establish at this Open Space Meeting and to deepen our cooperation.

A huge thank you goes to Christine and Susan - they have skilfully solved a not so easy task and were an enormous inspiration and help.