

Written Declaration

WD no 0003/2014



on improving the early diagnosis of cardiovascular diseases among women



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1. The dominant assumption that coronary heart disease typically concerns men has the effect of reducing women's and cardiologists' vigilance on the matter;
2. There is insufficient information available to women regarding the increased risks of coronary heart disease associated with hormonal birth control (especially among smokers), decreased levels of oestrogen following menopause, and diabetes;
3. Cases of silent ischemia (painless ischemic episodes) are very frequent among female patients;
4. All these factors result in higher death rates from cardiovascular disease among women than among men;
5. The Commission is therefore called upon to analyse the differences in diagnosis and treatment of coronary heart disease between male and female patients in the European Union, to examine the rate of successful diagnosis of coronary heart disease in women in primary care and to present its conclusions so that appropriate steps can be taken;
6. The Commission is also called upon to develop campaigns raising the awareness of factors that increase the risk of cardiovascular disease among women;
7. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Commission.

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sign

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