Tics in Children and Adolescents in Primary Care

Background
- Transient tics up to 25% of the pediatric population, and Tourette Syndrome (TS) has a prevalence of 1%
- No studies investigating referral by general practitioners in Denmark
- No current guideline in Denmark on how to treat pediatric patients with tics
- Regional variation in treatment of TS and tics – psychiatric vs somatic

Methods
- Online questionnaire regarding contact with pediatric patients with tics sent to 1600 Danish general practitioners (GPs)
- Data analyzed with SPSS

Results
- 210 GPs with contact to pediatric patients with tics
- Significantly more patients referred to somatic care in the regions Zealand and the Capital compared to the other three regions
- Patients with psychiatric comorbidity more likely to be referred to psychiatric care no matter the region
- Referral depends more on severity of tics than on functional impairment

Conclusions
- Referral of pediatric patients with tics depend mostly on severity of tics, less so functional impairment
- Patients with psychiatric comorbidities are more likely to be referred to psychiatric care regardless of region
- Further studies are needed to determine possible differences in diagnosing, treatment and outcomes in pediatric patients with tics referred to psychiatric and somatic care