

# The Pediatric Orthopedics workforce in Romania and its impact on clubfoot patients' access to healthcare services

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## Introduction

- Health systems need to have enough Pediatric Orthopedists, who are adequately qualified and trained, in order to ensure clubfoot patients' proper access to the needed care.
- The Romanian healthcare system has been long experiencing shortages of properly trained pediatric orthopedics surgeons.

## Methods

- Secondary data available in the Activity of the Healthcare Institutions (Activitatea Unităților Sanitare) was analyzed.
- Second, a qualitative approach was adopted targeting parents of children diagnosed with clubfoot across Romania.

## Results

- Between 2009 and 2019, the number of specialists in Pediatric Orthopedics fluctuated noticeably, with a decrease of **59%**.
- Only **4%** of all the orthopedic surgeons in Romania are currently orthopedic pediatric surgeons.
- The Ponseti method is **under-approached** in Romania.



**Normal**

**Clubfoot**

## Discussions

- Policy options should focus on raising awareness around clubfoot.
- The guidelines which emphasize the recommended treatment of musculoskeletal disorders should represent a standpoint for specialists and future specialists.

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