



# Our experiences with Roma people

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# Cardiovascular risk



Emil, 67 y, severe arterial disease, poly-medication.

Stays in bed all day, no physical exercise.

As unabled person access to wheelchair and adapted small house.

Bad treatment compliance.

# Cardiovascular risk



Locus of control: difficulty to empower patients to tackle their (health) problems.

Illiteracy: patients cannot read their letters and therefore miss opportunities.

Bad treatment compliance: disease gets worse and this very often leads to unneeded hospitalisation.

Prevention: no interest

# Dependance of society



Bidaim, 27y, obese, back pain

States to be unable to work, wants to be declared disabled for life

No physical activity

Health care worker has to solve his problem

Pain = disability to work

# Dependance of society

See it as an advantage to earn money without working. No problem with the label of 'disabled person'. Conflict with society.

Locus of control: difficult to motivate patients to get a grip on their own life, take care of their body, especially the young ones.

Frustrated caregivers. Not able to change point of view or behaviour.

# Family planning

Princessa 17y, Besim 15y, baby Bajram 6m, 2th pregnancy

Besim is oldest son, supposed to stay at home to care for his parents

Princessa: daughter in law, no family in Belgium

Bajram: congenital deafness due to perinatal CMV infection

Gynecologist refused IUD, because of age <18y?

She forgot a tablet > unplanned pregnancy





# Family planning

Conflict due to different norms and values

- Inappropriate follow-up during pregnancy
- Prejudices
- Family planning

Autonomy of daughter in law: social isolation

- Risk of domestic violence

Roll of the grandmother: education of grandchildren

# Knowledge of organization of health care

Fatime, 64y, obesity, diabetes, o<sub>2</sub>-dep. COPD, chron. renal failure, heart rhythm disorder, polymedication

No physical activity, no treatment compliance

Recurrent hospitalisation and conflict in hospital:  
refusal to stay on intensive care

Search help when things run out of hand

Invalidity request eldest son

Care needs: support of daughter in law with  
weekly home visits



# Knowledge of organization of health care

No understanding of local language + cultural

➤ Fear of being alone

Organisation of health care system?

➤ Missing appointments

Knowledge of patient rights

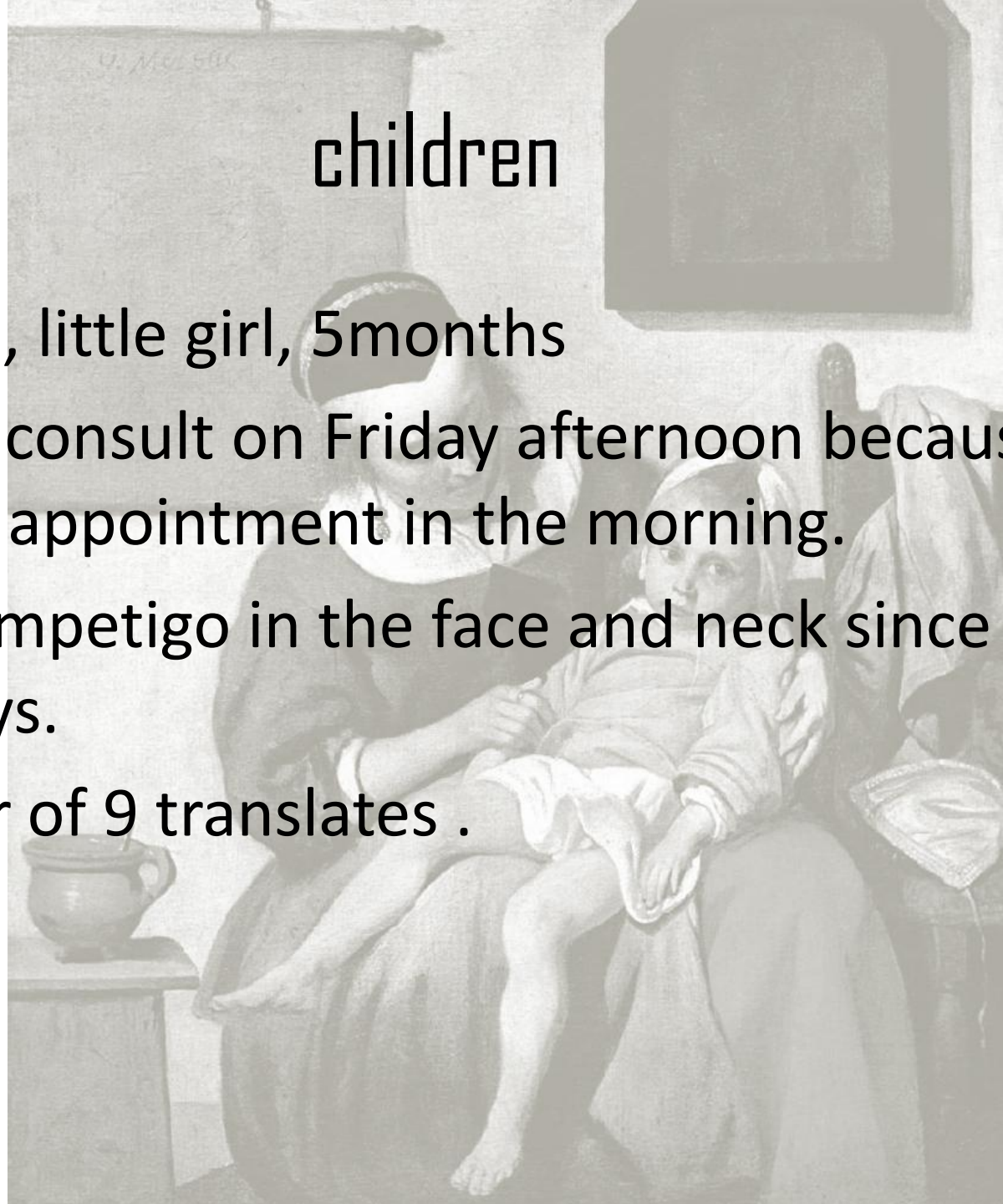
➤ right to refuse treatment + understand the consequences

Importance of treatment and locus of control >

Conflict with daughter in law > conflict with son

# children

- Klaudia, little girl, 5 months
- Urgent consult on Friday afternoon because of missed appointment in the morning.
- 38,3°, impetigo in the face and neck since a few days.
- Brother of 9 translates .



# children

- Missed appointments
- Knowledge of organization of Belgian health care
- Children translating for parents: difficult issues
- school and education: lack of importance

