

# Europe Ticker +++

## Paracetamol use during pregnancy

### Analgesic of choice



In recent months, the public debate in the United States surrounding the active ingredient paracetamol (locally called acetaminophen) has caused uncertainty. A warning issued by the US government suggesting that regular paracetamol use during pregnancy may increase the risk of autism has been criticised by experts and dismissed as being scientifically unfounded.

According to the current state of research, there is no robust evidence to suggest a clear link between paracetamol use during pregnancy and autism or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Compared with ibuprofen and acetylsalicylic acid, paracetamol is particularly favoured as an analgesic during pregnancy.

Source: *klartext*, German Dental Association (BZÄK), 9 December 2025

## SIIRI research receives additional €10m in funding

### Smart implants

Will future implants be able to independently detect peri-implant complications such as infections and initiate healing processes through biological, chemical and physical mechanisms?

This question has been the focus of research by scientists involved in the Collaborative Research Centre/Transregio 298 SIIRI (Safety-integrated and infection-responsive implants) since 2021. The interdisciplinary research network is led jointly by a dentist and a materials scientist.

Prof. Meike Stiesch is Director of the Clinic for Prosthetic Dentistry and Biomedical Materials Science at Hannover Medical School (MHH) and spokesperson for the research consortium. Her co-spokesperson, Prof. Hans Jürgen Maier, heads the Institute of Materials Science at Leibniz University Hannover (LUH).

Following the completion of the first funding phase, the German Research Foundation (DFG) will continue to support the development of intelligent medical implants over the next three and a half years providing more than €10 million in funding. In total, over 150 scientists are researching innovative strategies to improve implant safety.

Source: *SIIRI*, Germany

## Charité Berlin is working on a root-analogue implant

### A solution for immediate restoration?

Unlike traditional dental implants, root-analogue implants are not screwed into place, but are instead inserted directly into the extraction socket. A research group at Charité Berlin has now developed an innovative design for such an implant.

Previous one-piece implant designs have proved to be of limited suitability for routine clinical use. Therefore, a team led by Prof. Andreas Schwitalla from the Department of Prosthetic Dentistry, Geriatric Dentistry and Occlusion has developed a new implant concept.

The principle of root-analogue implants could simplify immediate implant restoration in the future. Immediately after tooth extraction, an implant that is anatomically identical to the tooth root (root analogue) is inserted into the alveolus. This eliminates the need for a threaded implant design and transforms the previously highly invasive surgical implantation procedure into a low-pain, minimally invasive intervention.

Accelerated osseointegration is intended to allow the early development of secondary stability without the interim bone resorption that is otherwise commonly observed. This is to be achieved through a specific surface modification that has already demonstrated promising results in animal experiments.

According to Schwitalla, the corresponding results are expected to be published shortly. The Charité researchers now plan to test the newly developed implant design in patients as part of a feasibility study to generate clinical data.

Source: *zm-online*, 13 November 2025

Three EU Commission initiatives still planned for 2025

## Proposals on digitalisation, prevention and cutting red tape



The European Commission plans to present three major health policy initiatives by the end of 2025: a Cardiovascular Health Plan, the Biotech Act I and amendments to the Medical Device Regulation (MDR) and the In Vitro Diagnostic Regulation (IVDR). These proposals aim to promote digitalisation, prevention and reduced bureaucracy.

1. The new EU Cardiovascular Health Plan is designed to establish a novel comprehensive European strategy to combat cardiovascular diseases. Its structure and underlying logic are modelled on the EU Cancer Plan. The concept is based on three pillars—prevention, early detection and care—and is complemented by cross-cutting themes such as digitalisation, research and social inequalities.
2. Under the title Biotech Act I, the Commission is planning a sector-specific initiative aimed to strengthen European biotechnology in the healthcare sector. The Act is expected to include simplifications, for clinical trials in particular, targeted EU funding instruments and measures to accelerate the approval of biotechnological products. Despite the broad scope of the initiative, no impact assessment is currently envisaged, which makes it difficult to assess the full reach of the proposals at this stage.
3. The third initiative that has been announced is a simplification package for the MDR and the IVDR. Planned measures include adjustments to reduce bureaucratic burdens, simplify certification procedures and support healthcare institutions. These are expected to include exemptions for legacy devices as well as fast-track procedures for orphan devices. The Commission emphasises its aim of accelerating processes and reducing costs.

Source: PM-Report, 1 December 2025

Are EU funding cuts to HIV and vaccine programmes looming?

## Experts sound the alarm

Experts are warning that Europe could jeopardise decades of progress in the fight against HIV and vaccine-preventable diseases if funding is reduced.

The Global Fund has described the prospect of a rapid phase-out of support as “irresponsible”. According to an internal briefing, the European Commission may stop funding for two leading global health organisations, the vaccine alliance Gavi and the Global Fund by 2030. This step would reflect Brussels’ intention to redirect development aid towards areas where it believes it can exert greater strategic influence.

Meanwhile, the United States has announced its withdrawal from the World Health Organisation and significant cuts to its budget for similar initiatives this year. Health organisations warn that these developments could lead to increased infections and deaths from HIV, tuberculosis and other preventable diseases. A study published in *The Lancet* estimates that up to 23 million lives could be saved and around 400 million new HIV, tuberculosis and malaria infections could be prevented between 2027 and 2029 with sufficient funding.

The European Commission has not confirmed whether the proposal reflects its official position. However, it stated that it will continue discussions with global health partners in the coming months as reform plans take shape.

Source: Euractiv, 29 October 2025