

**ao.Univ.-Prof. Dr. Marion S. Rauner, Ass.-Prof. Dr. Michaela-Maria  
Schaffhauser-Linzatti, Dr. Achim Zeileis**

University of Vienna

marion.rauner@univie.ac.at , michaela.linzatti@univie.ac.at ,  
Achim.Zeileis@wu-wien.ac.at

**„Anreize der leistungsorientierten Krankenhausfinanzierung auf die  
Behandlung von Patienten mit inneren Kniegelenksschädigungen in  
Österreich“**

**“Incentives of the Austrian performance-oriented reimbursement system on  
the treatment of patients with knee-joint problems”**

**Abstract:**

This paper analyses the effects of the introduction of the new Austrian performance-oriented inpatient payment system in 1997 on the treatment of patients with knee-joint problems. Using statistical models/tests on the data from 1994 – 2002, we disclosed several major effects: 1) the number of patients increased by about 75% and 2) the length of stay decreased by about 40%. We furthermore found differences among patients treated in different counties due to the county-specific reimbursement system features. However, the overall trend in the treatment of patients with knee-joint problems can only be partly explained by the reimbursement system. More risky recreational sports and the aging population might also be responsible for the rise in the number of patients. However, big ticket technologies such as MRIs and CTs positively influenced the diagnosis and treatment of patients with knee joints too. Furthermore, new minimal invasive operation methods allow for better, quicker, and less painful treatment of patients with knee joints which could also be responsible for the increase in the number of patients treated and their decrease in the length of stay in hospitals.