

STAR-trial: STI-TESTING IN ASYMPTOMATIC MEN: IS MORE THAN TWO PARTNERS PER YEAR SUFFICIENTLY SELECTIVE?



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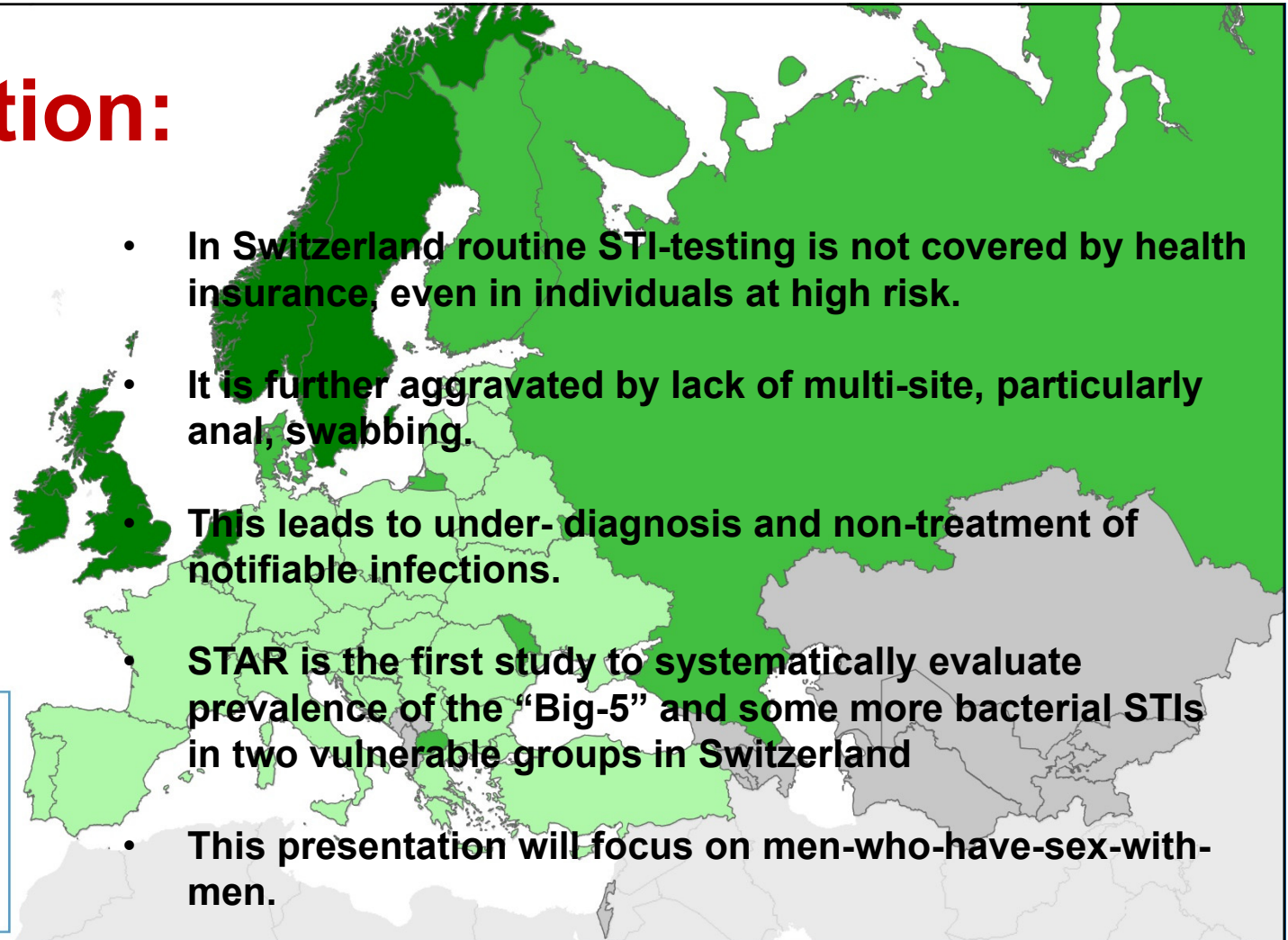
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Introduction:



Proportion of HIV-negative MSM who had a full STI screen (HIV, Syphilis, anal swab and urethral swab (or urine)) in the last 12 months

- No data reported
- Up to 3%
- >3-10%
- >10-22%



- In Switzerland routine STI-testing is not covered by health insurance, even in individuals at high risk.
- It is further aggravated by lack of multi-site, particularly anal, swabbing.
- This leads to under- diagnosis and non-treatment of notifiable infections.
- STAR is the first study to systematically evaluate prevalence of the “Big-5” and some more bacterial STIs in two vulnerable groups in Switzerland
- This presentation will focus on men-who-have-sex-with-men.

Methods

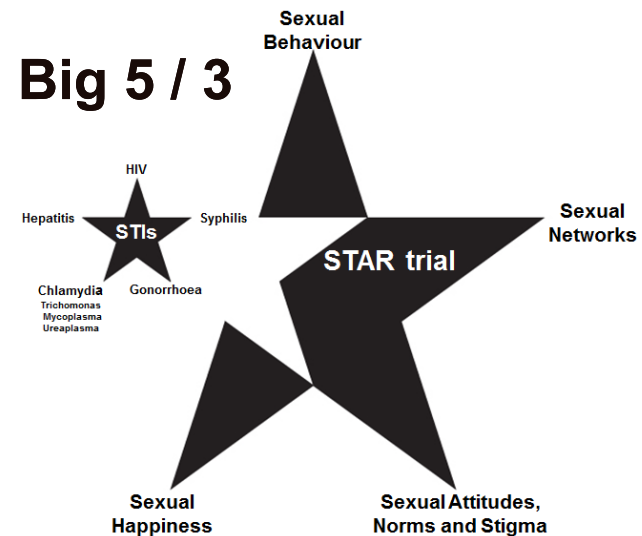
- STAR trial (STI Testing of Asymptomatics at Risk)
5 dimensions of sexual health
- **Multi-centre**, country-wide
- **Free** HIV, Hepatitis, and STI-testing
- Seegene[®]STI-7 multiplex PCR
(N.gonorrhoeae, C.trachomatis, T.vaginalis, M. genitalium)
- **Pooled swabs (“frottis combinés”)**
(pharyngeal, vaginal, rectal)

Don't confuse with:

Strategie Antibiotikaresistenzen



Big 5 / 3



About pooled swabs

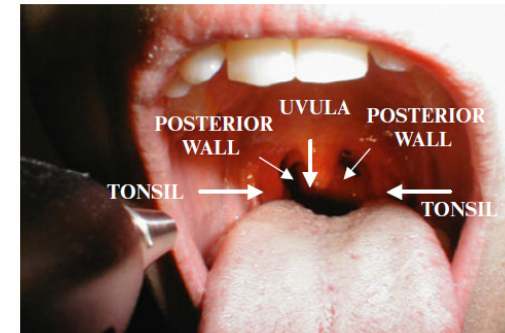
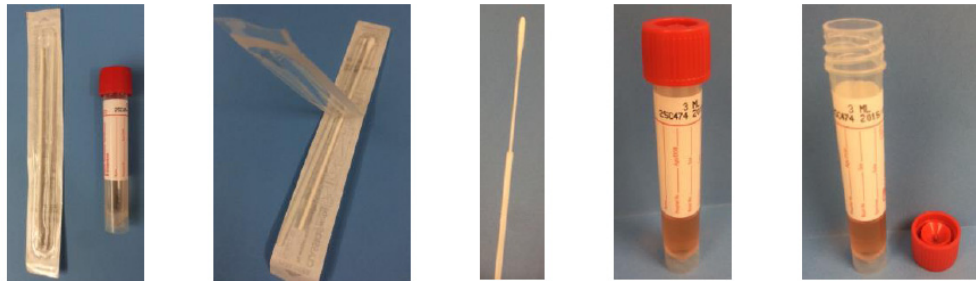
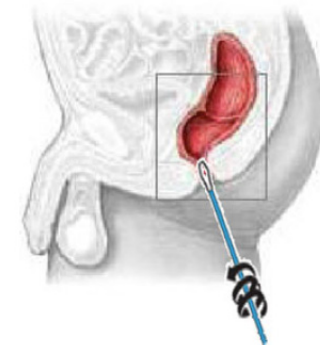


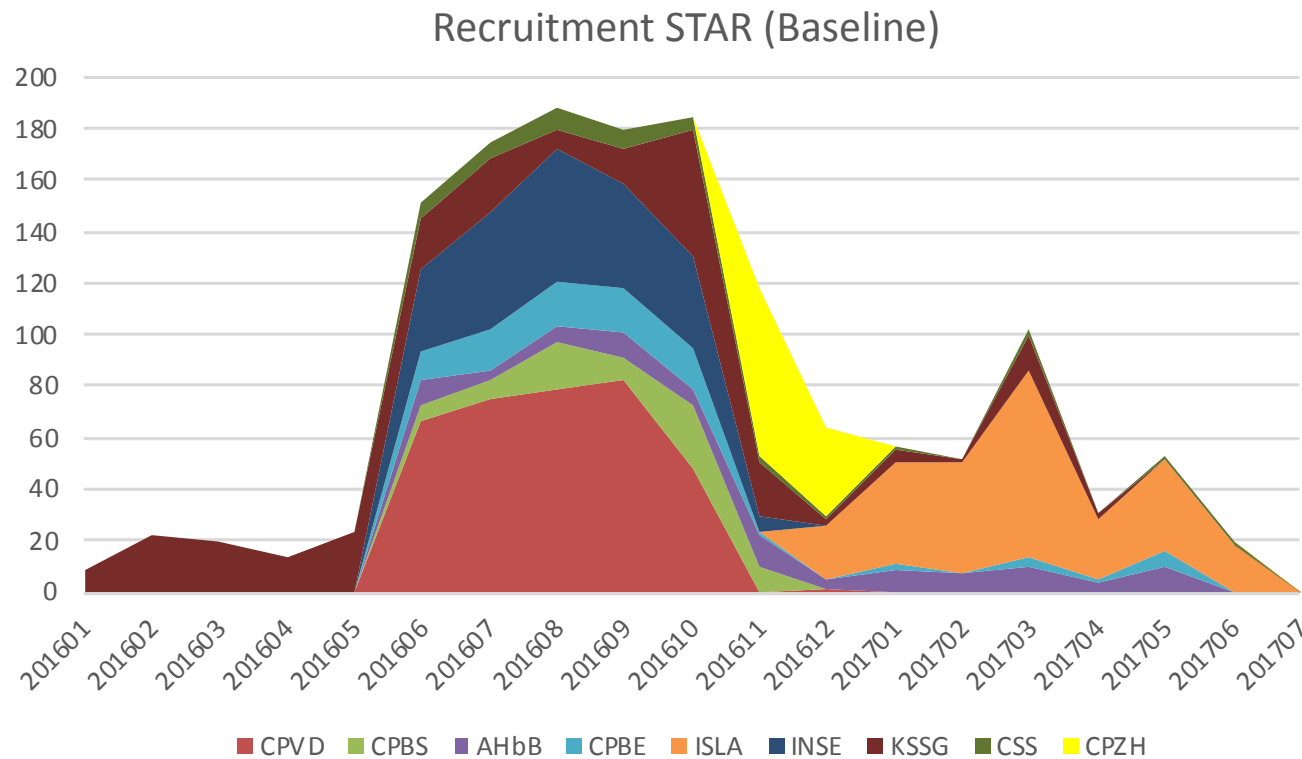
Abb: Levy, 2012



- The oropharynx is probably the most important source for gonorrhoea.
- Ideally (scientifically more interesting) are three separate swabs.
- This would imply a dramatic cost increase
- Most practitioners don't know three-site swabbing can be combined. This information needs to be spread.

Results: Recruitment

Axel J. Schmidt, Dr. med. M.D. MPH - Schweizer HIV & STI-Forum, Bern, 8. März 2018



CPVD, CPBS,
 CPBE, CPZH
 ISLA, AHbB, KANO,
 CSS, INSE, KSSG
 Outreach work
 (M Rasi @KSSG:
 gay saunas;
 brothels,
 Northeastern CH)

For all other results,
see poster for IUSTI-
2017 in Helsinki.

Condom effectiveness

When using condoms for penetrative anal or vaginal intercourse, the **overall** risk for acquisition of bacterial STIs is **reduced by approximately 50%**.

Prevention interventions aiming at 100% condom-effectiveness for «Big-3» (Syphilis, gonorrhoea, chlamydiosis) would need to include recommendations to use condoms and other latex-based (etc.) barrier methods also for

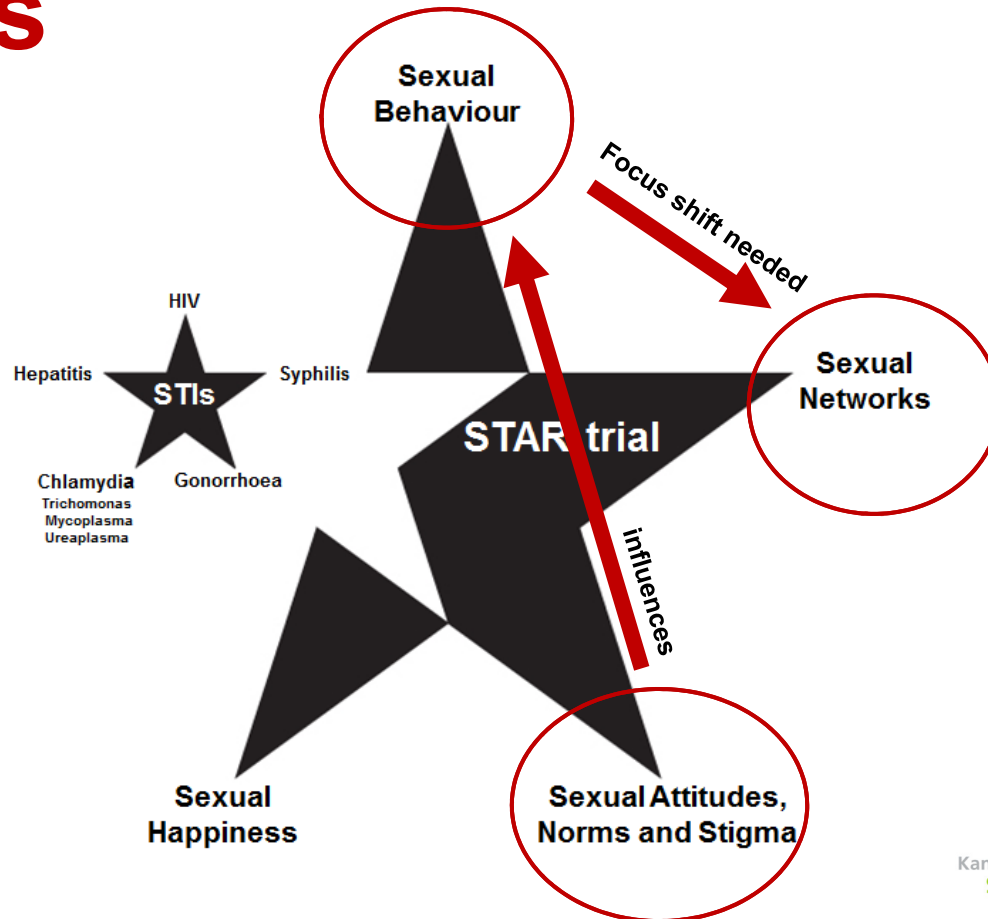
- oro-penile,
- oro-anal
- oro-vaginal
- digito-anal
- digito-vaginal
- digito-penile
- digito-oral
- vagino-vaginal
- brachio-rectal
- brachio-vaginal
- and, last but not least: oro-oral («deep kissing»)

sexual contacts.

This would imply a massive and highly unwanted change in people's sexuality.

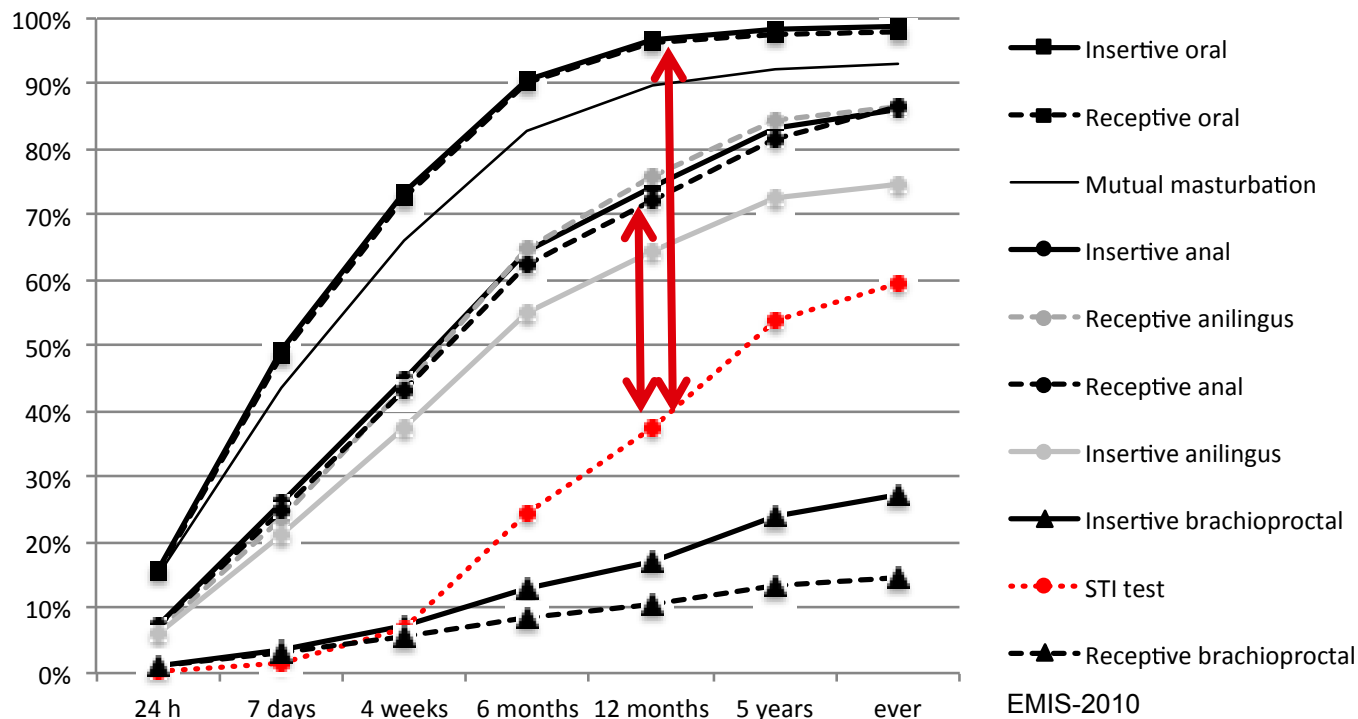
Explanations

5-edged star:
dimensions of
sexual health



Sexual Diversity

(«Und weil's jede(r) anders liebt / Et parce que chacun(e) l'aime à sa façon»)

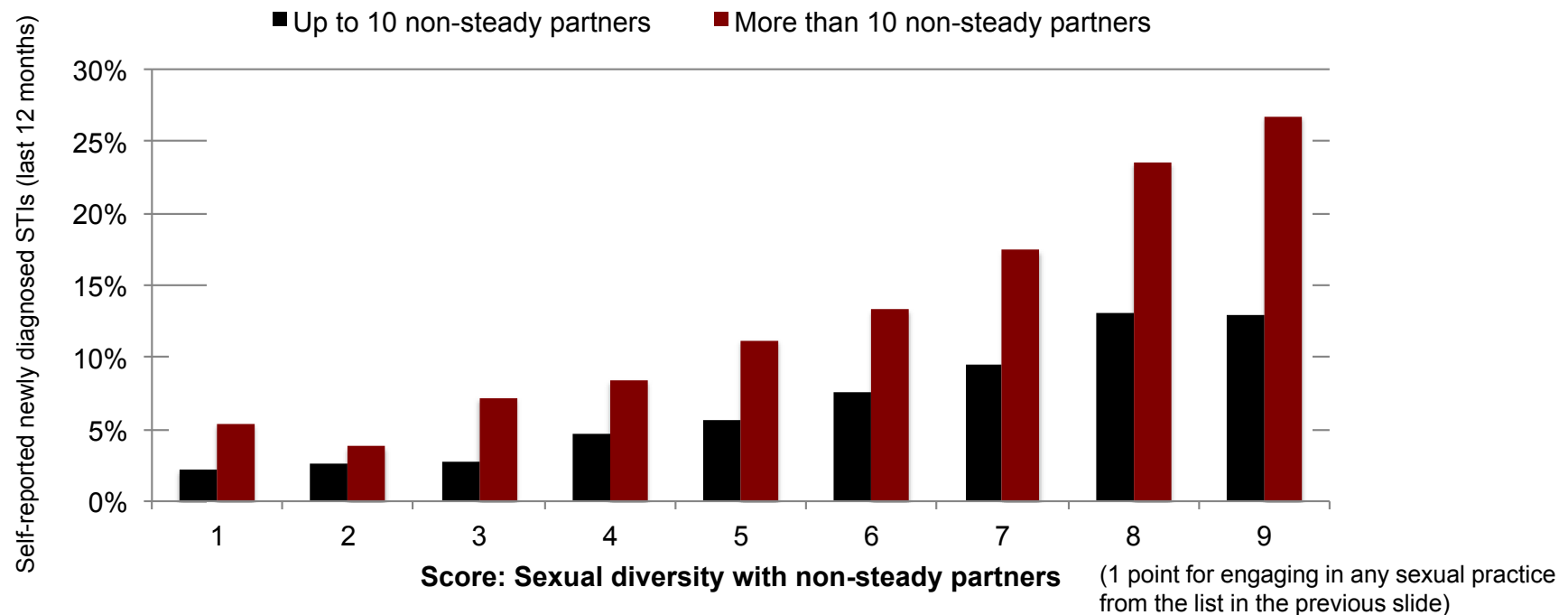


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The EMIS Network. EMIS 2010: **The European Men-Who-Have-Sex-With-Men Internet Survey. Findings from 38 countries.** Stockholm: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, 2013

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Conclusions

- **Among MSM, but not among other multi-partner men, bacterial STIs, mostly asymptomatic, are common.**
- **Switzerland has existing structures for low-threshold STI-testing for MSM, but costs are too high.**
- **Existing structures need too be maintained.**
- **Given the high risk of onward transmission, low-cost or free routine screening (Big-3) of MSM is a public health priority.**



Merci * Danke * Thank you

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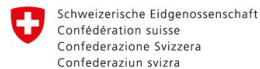
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sanitas

