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Introduction

The goal of **VASCERN** (est. 2017), the European Reference Network (ERN) for **Rare Multisystemic Vascular Diseases (RMVDs)**, is to improve the care and quality of life of patients with RMVDs across Europe.

The network is organized in **six thematic Rare Disease Working Groups (RDWGs)**, each gathering healthcare professionals, patients and patient advocates, and the scientific community. The RDWGs address the challenges associated with the management of specific RMVDs.

The **VASCERN Psychology Transversal Working Group (TWG)**, est. **2023** focuses on the **psychological and emotional aspects** of living with RMVDs, in order to improve patient care. We **share expertise** and **identify needs**, as well as **develop practical tools** and **educational resources**.

Methods

Psychology TWG Structure & Organization:

- **19 members** (8 psychologists, 5 clinicians, 6 patient advocates) from **10 European countries**;
- organizational and project management support from the **VASCERN coordination team**;
- **1** recurrent **online monthly meeting**;
- **1** annual **face-to-face meeting**;
- dedicated meetings for **task forces** created to develop specific tools.



Results

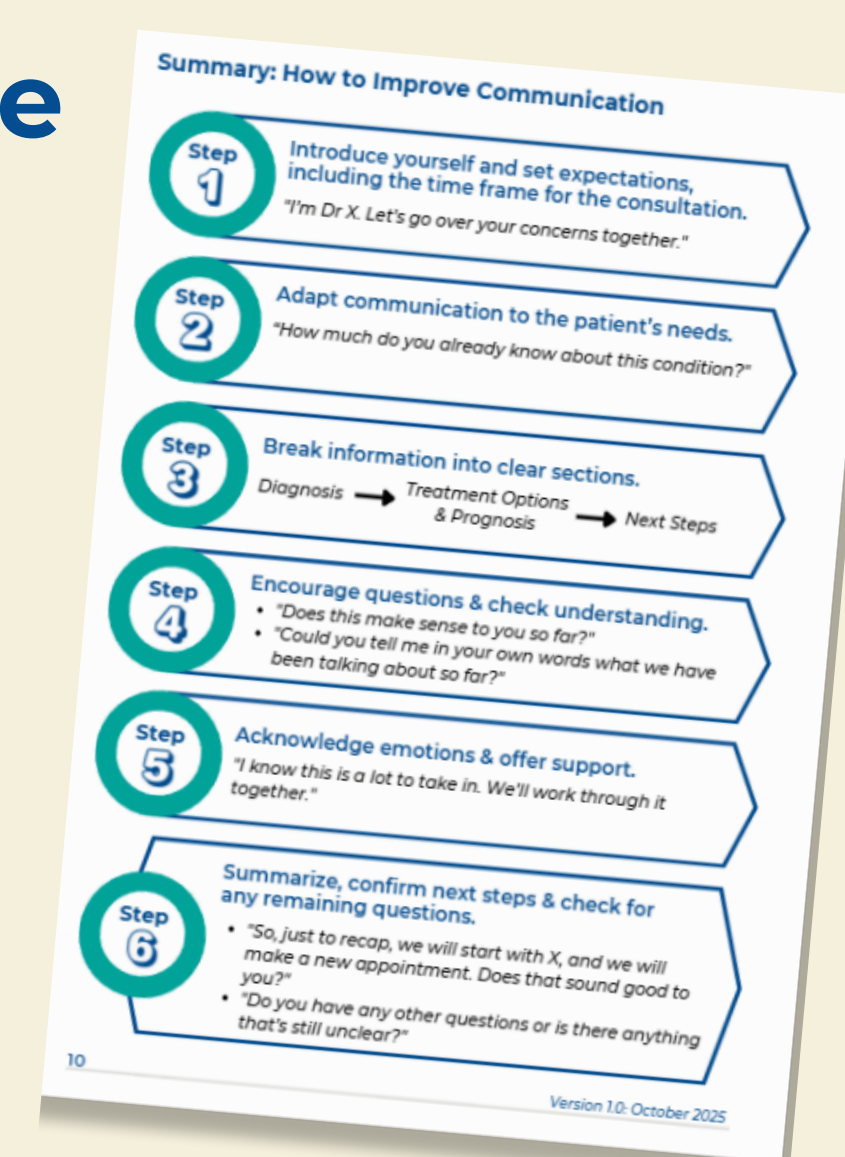
1. Contribution to the VASCERN Summer School for medical professionals:

- ▶ **webinars and presentations** on patient therapeutic education, psychological support & quality of life
- ▶ **on-site role-play** workshops on communication

2. Development of practical tools:

- ▶ a **trans-diagnostic** and **open source toolkit** to improve **communication** between healthcare professionals and patients & caregivers

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- ▶ **videos**
- ▶ **fact-sheets** (Do's & Don'ts)



Save the date!
Tue 29th Sept 2026

Live webinar on the Toolkit
in collaboration with



Conclusion

The **VASCERN Psychology TWG** promotes **better integration of psychological care** into RMVD management. Developing practical tools such, as a **toolkit** on communication between medical professionals, patients and caregivers represents a concrete result to strengthen **patient-centred psychological care** across Europe.



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