Introduction:
The aim of the present guidelines (GL) on I-131 therapy of benign thyroid disorders formulated by the EANM Therapy Committee is to provide clinicians on how to treat benign thyroid disorders (1). The recommendations were formulated based on recent literature and expert opinion. The Dosimetry Committee was involved in the writing of these guidelines with their emphasis on activity and dose recommendations. Special attention is paid to the aspects in the treatment of children undergoing this procedure. Finally, the new GL have been reviewed by the Oncology Committee, the Paediatrics Committee and the Physics Committee and have been brought to the attention of the National Societies of Nuclear Medicine.

Contents of the European guidelines:
The recently published EANM guidelines for therapy of benign thyroid disease include sections on purpose of these guidelines, background information and definitions, aims of treatment, indications and contraindications, procedures, administration, radiation dosimetry in adults and radioiodine treatment in children (2,3). The final sections are dedicated to the side effects of I-131 therapy, results of treatment and follow-up strategies thereafter (4).

Issues to be clarified:
Despite the longstanding knowledge on I-131 therapy in benign disorders, some of the following issues still require clarification: the value of dosimetrically determined versus fixed empirically activities; the role of rhTSH and the long-term outcome (5); recommended times of drug withdrawal; stunning; inhomogeneous uptake of I-131; the use of glucocorticosteroids in patients with Graves’ disease and especially the duration and dosage in ophthalmopathy.

In conclusion:
The new guidelines provide sufficient advices for a proper application in clinical practice. However, it has to be realized that GL should not be a replacement for clinical judgement or for extensive experience.

References
Rivkees SA, Dinaur C. An optimal treatment for pediatric Graves’ disease is radioiodine. J Clin Endocrinol Metab 2007; 92: 797-800.