

Sustainability and access: mutually exclusive or mutually supportive?

A health system and a European perspective

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Paris, France
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Sustainability and access

A health system perspective

Challenges:

1. Quickly rising costs
2. Rapid introduction of new innovative treatments into practice
3. Significant focus on cancer in all its course
4. Patients belonging to three categories:
 - “Cured” patients or patients in a very long remission
 - Patients with remaining disease but well controlled
 - Patients with incurable disease of different phases

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A health system perspective

Responses (so far):

1. Reductions and restrictions to cancer specific expenditures (especially in austerity-stricken countries)
2. Following the course of rapid introduction through changed mechanisms by EMA
3. Industry responding to the challenge by shifting a part of resources to previously 'hopeless' or 'neglected' areas and cancers
4. Significant breakthroughs in some cancers in terms of cure, a lot of work on progress-free extensions and in life with cancer support

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A health system perspective

How to address the future?

- 1. Giving priority to achieving clinically and patient significant benefits**
- 2. The above applies to all presentations of cancer**
- 3. Patients should be included in trials instead of being given promises by exorbitantly costly treatments for minimal benefits (measured in weeks or few months without effective QoL or independence)**
- 4. Stratifying treatments thus avoiding uniform protocols and one-size-fits-all approaches**
- 5. Extending HTA beyond medication to surgery, equipment at all levels and radiotherapy**
- 6. A comprehensive view on the economy of cancer – societal benefits need to be viewed as well**

Sustainability and access

A small country perspective

There are many challenges for a small country:

1. Small market
2. Limited opportunities for research
3. Often limited expertise
4. Financial and allocative restrictions



Sustainability and access

A small country perspective

Potential responses and solutions:

- 1. Joining forces with other countries – in terms of tenders and negotiations**
 - 2. Entering into international studies, providing own patients better opportunities**
 - 3. Collaboration with ERNs and with Cancer Core Europe**
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Sustainability and access

A European perspective

Challenges:

1. Differences in cancer profiles across countries
 2. Differences in capacities of health care systems
 3. Gradient in GDP (8:1!)
 4. Absolute and relative expenditures on health care and on cancer care
 5. Different levels of expertise, research capacity and mobility
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Sustainability and access

A European perspective

Potential responses:

- 1. Closer collaboration across the EU and in subregions**
 - 2. Joint development of clinical studies and trials with involvement of the broadest number of countries**
 - 3. Agree on differentiated pricing policies and on volume procurement – more stability also for the industry**
 - 4. ERNs and JARC as mechanisms of collaboration to identify best possible option for the Member States**
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Thank you! 😊

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