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Economic consideration about the past and future treatment in oncology?

Cancer represents an economic burden for healthcare systems, patients and societies due to healthcare spending and productivity losses from morbidity and early mortality. If on one hand in the last 20 years the newly cases of cancer are increased by 50% in Europe due to aging, on the other hand death rates and health outcomes have improved significantly thanks to oncological research progress.

In the last 10 years we have seen the most extraordinary advances in prevention, diagnosis, treatment and survival of cancer. This includes immunotherapy, precision medicine, epigenetic, personalised treatment, machine learning and artificial intelligence. All these developments are certainly promising in preventing new cancer cases, yielding more cures and long term remissions, but at the same time healthcare systems worldwide are struggling to deliver the benefits. Cancer treatment is increasingly complex and, even in the wealthiest countries, it requires oncologists to work across specialties to achieve optimal outcomes for their patients. There are indeed unique challenges to provide comparative clinical and economic evidence to justify an efficient use of limited healthcare resources to society. We provide a description and vision about the past, present and future of the economic evidence in the space of oncology treatment.