

Challenges in the incorporation of innovation against Cancer **César Hernández García** Director General for Common Portfolio and Pharmacy Ministry of Health, Spain







Exponential growth of science and technology

The time span of scientific and technological progress is constantly decreasing. Without time to assess and be aware of the impact of an advance, we have to be prepared to incorporate the next

Increasing pressure for early access to innovation

Innovation, even the earliest, can not be hidden anymore and general population and public opinion generally accept that access to treatments must be immediate

Growing possibility of a data driven decision making

Data is a key enabler for faster development of therapies, improving care and allocating healthsystem spend to optimize outcome for patients, promoting a shift in value

Balancing uncertainty and lost opportunity due to delayed access Balancing uncertainty due to early access with addressing unmet medical needs requires innovative approaches which, in turn, should not make the process unmanageable

The pressure of demographics

Aging increases the chances of suffering cancer. Increasing survival without cure generates needs in successive lines of treatment. Fragile and vulnerable target populations

Risk of a massively medicines-focused approach to cancer care





Cancer prevention

Do not smoke and smoke-free spaces. Healthy body weight. Be physically active. Healthy diet. Limit or avoid alcohol. Use sun protection. Protection against cancer-causing substances. Reduce exposure to radiation. Breastfeeding, if possible. Engage vaccination programmes. Participate in organised cancer screening programmes

Patient support

Education and training, patient networking programmes, psychological and emotional support, counselling and guidance to manage disease, Apps for disease management and instrumental activities, health coordinator, treatment reminder, POC interventions, home care, coordination for diagnostic support

Adequate monitoring

Digital platforms that integrates genomic and clinical data working with integrated health systems across hospitals and health care centres. Liquid biopsy. Sequencing and other biomarker technologies. Integration with electronic medical records and realtime decision support.

Early diagnosis Cancer screening

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Screening and early detection offers the best chance of beating cancer. Reaching target populations is a challenge for well stablished screening programs but also for implementing the Council Recommendation of 9 December 2022 on strengthening prevention through early detection

Accurate personalised diagnosis

Digital pathology and imaging, generalised access to gene sequencing, and minimally invasive methods like liquid biopsy enabling measuring circulating tumour DNA and cells allowing the move toward personalized therapies, monitoring and tracking of minimal residual disease

Right treatment

Specialized and multidisciplinary approach including surgery, radiation (external, beads, proton therapy) as well as pharmacological treatments: DNA editing, RNA therapies, cancer vaccines, cell therapies, antibodies, antibody-drug conjugates with cytotoxic and radio-isotope payloads. Immunotherapies and new therapies based on other costimulatory or checkpointinhibition as monotherapies or in combination











Integration of actions against cancer

> A holistic view to accommodate innovation, access and affordability for the National Health Systems

clinical practice





All the actions involved in cancer care are linked to each other and should not be considered as separate. For example, early diagnosis drives to different treatment opportunities. Empowered patients and families may take part in better treatment decisions and engage in better monitoring practices.







Integration of research and clinical practice



Source: Spanish Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices



Repurposing of authorised medicines: pilot to support not-forprofit organisations and academia <share





Access to medicines

- Smaller patient populations, niche tumours and narrower stratification
- Shorter product life cycles but without a significant impact on competition
- 3 Difficulties to address combination therapies or second indications
- 4 Issues with production and access to Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products
- 5 Breaking silos between development, regulatory, pricing and system barriers





Take-home messages food for thought

Tackling cancer care challenges requires a holistic and integrated view across different actions, across health system and across research and clinical practice

- 2 Data analytics can be a game changer promoting a shift in value-based decisions, but still work ahead to take advantage of all its possibilities
- Access to new expensive medicines with some uncertainty remaining and availability of old, well stablished, medicines are the two sides of the same problem
- More EU strategic cooperation, including national competencies, may contribute to a stronger capacity in providing affordable access to new and old medicines

Thanks for your attention

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