



Challenges ahead in the field of solid cancers

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Challenges in research and treatment of solid tumours



Prevention, Screening and Early detection

Precision therapy

Long-term survivorship

Disparities





Prevention, Screening and Early detection

- **Prevention strategies for preventable solid tumours**
- **Screening programs are lacking** for many solid cancers, including some with high mortality
- A large percentage of solid tumours are diagnosed at **advanced stages** where they are harder to combat
- There is a **limited understanding of early stage** to support interception strategies



- Sensitive and specific **biomarkers to support early interventions**
- New **non-invasive screening** technologies
- Scalable, **cost-effective** methodologies
- Integrate population **diversity**
- Encourage **patient adherence** and participation



Precision therapy

- Most of patients with solid tumours present **secondary resistance** after initial response
- Approved immunotherapies do **not benefit the majority (70%)** of cancer patients (“cold tumours”)
- **Tumour adaptation** causes resistance



- Need for **selective and effective therapies**
- Improved drug **delivery systems**
- **Personalized biomarkers** to guide patients' treatment
- **Enhance** immunotherapy **efficacy**, in particular in “cold tumours” and cell-based therapies
- **Overcome** tumour **plasticity** and **heterogeneity**
- **Track dynamic evolution** of the disease



- Anti-cancer therapies have detrimental effects on **cognition, fertility, or pain** that compromise quality of life
- A large fraction of patients suffering late effects have **pre-existing conditions**
- Cancer survivors are at higher risk of developing a **secondary cancer**



- Understand the causes underlying **physiological challenges** associated to treatment and the emergence of secondary cancers
- Improve the **characterization and management of chronic symptoms** to allow patients to live longer and better
- Develop models and biomarkers to **predict** the development of late-effects associated to treatment



**Long-term
survivorship**



- **Uneven cancer awareness** across socio-economic groups and patient engagement
- **Geographical barriers** to access cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment and supportive care
- **Unbalanced distribution** of infrastructures, resources and services for cancer diagnosis and care
- **Limited coordination** between comprehensive cancer centres and tertiary hospitals and primary care in providing continuum of care
- **Fragmented and non-patient-centered healthcare** systems
- Need for **decentralized, patient-centered** clinical trials
- **Prohibitive cost** of medicines

Disparities



GLOBAL ACTIONS THAT BOTH EU GOVERNAMENTAL BODIES AND MEMBER STATES MUST ADDRESS IN CANCER PREVENTION, CARE & RESEARCH

- Increase the **investment in behavioural epidemiological research and awareness** (smoking restrictions, foster school health education programs in diet & exercise, primary care programs, etc.)
- Improve **equitable access** and **adherence** with population-based, **cancer screening programs**, addressing the whole population (especially socially vulnerable groups)
- Promote **hubs of expertise** for management of individuals with **genetic cancer susceptibility**
- Develop **national cancer survivorship policies**, underpinned by an equity perspective. Also improve psycho-oncological care and rehabilitation
- **Rationalising expenditures on cancer care** (Member States) and establish an EU policy on **cancer drugs price/reimbursement** to support the sustainability of Health Systems
- Work on the **standardization of clinical guidelines for solid tumours at EU level**
- Create and consolidate an EU **network of Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures** with high standards to improve cancer care & research (specially in cancers with poor prognosis or orphan diseases) and avoid disparities, promoting collaborations among cancer centres
- **Create an EU federated hub** (federation of federations) to optimize the use of anonymised clinical/-omics data at transnational level, fully necessary to **address current research challenges in solid tumours**



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