

surgical training and 1/3 being trained in a Breast Unit. It is imperative to develop quality standards for breast cancer surgery training to ensure that patients get standardized and certified surgical management regardless of the country they are treated.

Conflict of interest: No conflict of interest.

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ELECTROCHEMOTHERAPY IN MELANOMA: A EUROPEAN E-DELPHI SURVEY TO DEFINE A CONSENSUS ON INDICATIONS, TREATMENT MODALITIES AND QUALITY INDICATORS

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Background: Electrochemotherapy (ECT) has evolved considerably over the past decade, but its application is yet to be standardized. In fact, a lack of agreement exists on eligible patients, timing of treatment, combination strategies and outcomes. Therefore, our aim was to establish a consensus on treatment indications (TI), procedural modalities (PM), and quality indicators (QI) of ECT in melanoma.

Material and methods: We invited 156 experts from 53 European centers who fulfilled pre-specified eligibility criteria to undertake a 3-Round web-based survey, according to a modified Delphi method. The inclusion criteria were: (a) at least 20% of practice in melanoma; (b) a minimum of 5 years of post-qualification experience; (c) participation to a melanoma multidisciplinary team (MDT) meeting; (d) ability to communicate in written English; (e) working at a center where ECT is currently performed. Each center was encouraged to participate with experts from different specialties. Out of 156 invited experts, 122 (78.2%) agreed to participate and received in-depth instructions. The questionnaires were administered through an online platform powered by Scientific Network (www.scientificnetwork.org) and the participants had at least eight weeks to complete each phase of the survey (April – May 2017; August – September 2017; November 2017 – January 2018). For each item, participants were asked to rate its relevance and to express their agreement on a five-point Likert scale (from 1= completely disagree to 5=completely agree). Consensus was defined as $\geq 70\%$ of subjects rating 3 or 4, and items were retained in case of stability in two successive iterations. Subject anonymity was maintained throughout the study and a controlled feedback was provided to allow participants to reassess their initial judgments.

Results: One-hundred subjects completed the first phase and thus

represented the Expert Panel (Italy, n=61; UK, n=10; Germany, n=6, Ireland, n=5; Portugal, n=4, Slovenia, n=4; Poland, n=4; Switzerland, n=3; Hungary, n=3; Denmark, n=1; Spain, n=1). The composition of the Expert Panel was as follows: surgeons, n=49; dermatologists, n=29; medical oncologists, n=15; radiotherapists, n=3; nurses, n=2; clinical scientists, n=2. The completion rate of the first, second and third Round of the survey was 82% (100/122), 97% (97/100), and 93% (90/97), respectively. In the final Round, we reached a consensus on 43 items on TI and on 16 QI. For each QI, a benchmark value was individuated through a real-time Delphi method.

Conclusion: Experts suggested a set of shared, melanoma-specific TI of ECT. Moreover, they agreed on a core set of QI, which could represent critical considerations for its safe adoption and promote the standardization of the procedure. The items lacking consensus may represent useful topics for future research.

Conflict of interest: No conflict of interest.

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INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF TREATMENT STRATEGY AND SURVIVAL IN METASTATIC GASTRIC CANCER: A SURVEY FROM THE EURECCA UPPER GI GROUP

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Background: No survival benefit was shown in the randomized Asian REGATTA trial for additional gastrectomy over chemotherapy alone in patients with advanced gastric cancer with a single non-curable factor; thereby discouraging palliative gastrectomy surgery for this group of patients. The German prospective phase II AIO-FLOT3 trial indicated a favourable survival for patients with limited metastatic disease having surgery after neoadjuvant chemotherapy, and this is further being evaluated in the ongoing randomized RENAISSANCE trial. The aim of this study was to describe treatment strategy patterns for patients with metastatic gastric cancer in daily practice in five countries in Europe. Also, relative survival according to country was determined.

Material and methods: National population-based data from Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden were collected and merged. All patients diagnosed with primary metastatic gastric cancer between 2006 and 2014 were included. Resection rates and the administration of chemotherapy (irrespective of surgery) in each country were analysed. Relative survival in each country was calculated.

Results: In total, 15 057 gastric cancer patients were included. The resection rate differed from 8.1% in the Netherlands and Denmark to 18.3% in Belgium. Chemotherapy was administered in 39.2% of the patients in the Netherlands compared to 63.2% in Belgium. Six-month relative survival was 54.1 (95% CI 95%: 52.1 – 56.9) in Belgium and 49.6 (95% CI 95%: 47.3–51.9) in Denmark compared to 42.6 (95% CI 95%: 39.8–45.4) in Norway, 39.6 (95% CI 95%: 37.6–41.5) in Sweden, and 39.0 (95% CI:37.8 – 40.2) in the Netherlands.

Conclusions: In Europe, wide variation is observed in the use of a gastrectomy for patients with metastatic gastric cancer and in