

Background and Importance

In oncology, the frequent use of drugs in exceptional circumstances or special situations is necessary when alternatives are absent. Such use includes compassionate use (CU), off-label use (OLU), EMA approved drugs without a country refund price, and drugs outside the hospital's pharmacotherapeutic guide (non-HPG), all requiring hospital Committee approval due to Spanish legislation.

Aim and Objectives

- To analyze the requests and effectiveness of drugs in special situations in oncology patients at a third-level university hospital.

Materials and Methods



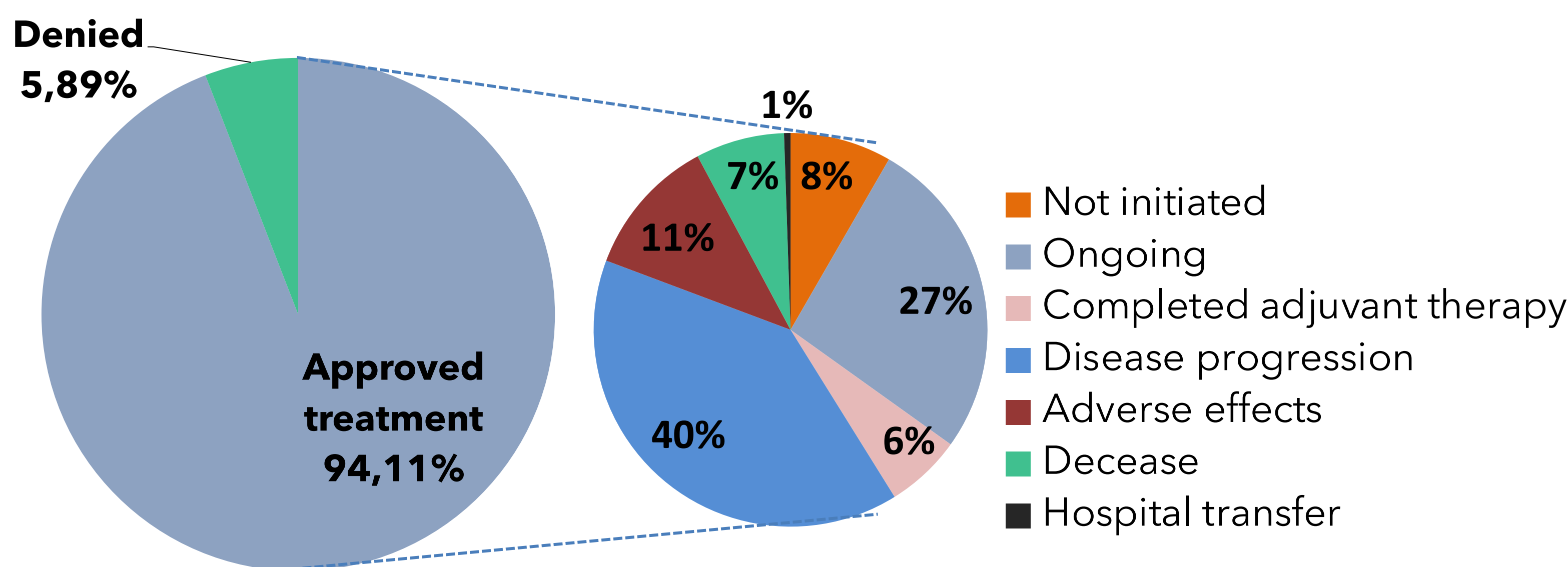
Between January 2021 and December 2022.

An observational, single-center, retrospective study was performed to analyze the prescription of special situation drugs in oncology patients.

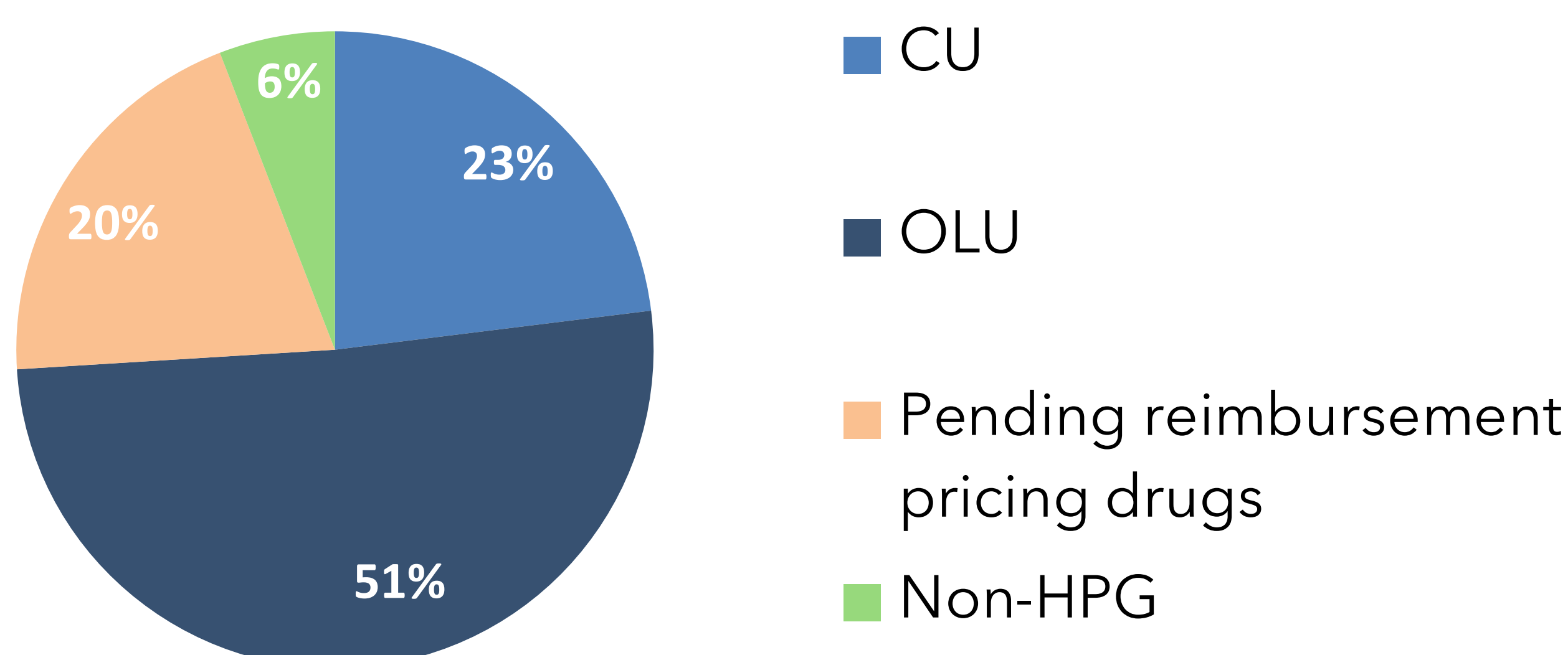
Data were collected regarding the nature of the special situation, cancer type, treatment setting (curative or palliative), ESMO clinical benefit, treatment acceptance by hospital Committee, clinical response, discontinuation reasons, number of administered cycles, and associated cost.

Results

1045 requests were submitted to the hospital committee
204(19.52%) belonged to the oncology field



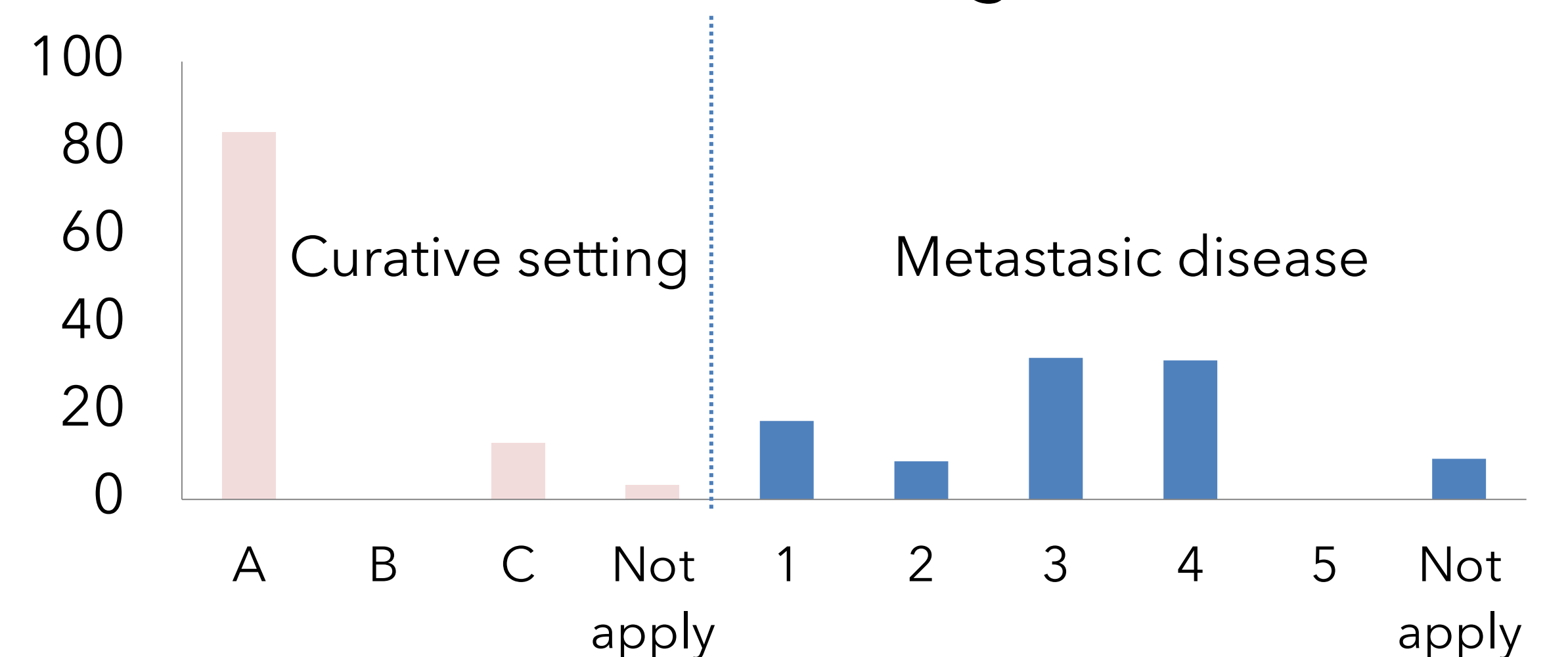
Types of special drugs included



Cancer type	N(%)	Curative N(%)	Metastatic N(%)
Breast	34(16.67)	5(2.45)	29(14.22)
Lung	33(16.18)	8(3.93)	25(12.25)
Genitourinary	40(19.60)	7(3.43)	33(16.18)
CNS	33(16.18)	1(0.49)	32(15.69)
Digestive	33(16.18)	3(1.47)	30(14.70)
Skin	26(12.74)	6(2.94)	20(9.80)
Head and neck	5(2.45)	0(0)	5(2.45)
Total	204(100)	30(14.71)	174(85.29)

Percentage of requests

ESMO benefit categories



The average±SD of administered cycles were 5.89 (±5.74), amounting to a total cost of €2.597.220.

Conclusion and Relevance



- There is a high percentage of medication requests in special situations in the oncology field, most of them in palliative setting (85.29%), with significant economic impact.
- It is crucial to regulate special-use medications to ensure equal treatment opportunities among cancer patients of different country hospitals.

