

IMPACT OF ONCOLOGICAL CLINICAL TRIALS IN A HOSPITAL PHARMACY

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Background

Clinical trials arise as a scientific response to the ethical need to ensure the efficacy and safety of new treatments that patients receive. Over the last few years we have seen an increase in the area of oncological clinical trials (OCT) activity. Chemotherapy preparation is considered as a complex and high risk process.

Purpose

To analyze the degree of activity and the economic saving of OCT.

Material and methods

Retrospective observational study performed in a tertiary university hospital June 16-June 17. Data was collected from PK trials® including:

- active clinical trials
- patients included in OCT
- % of dispensed oncological drugs (OD) provided by the promoter: number of ODs dispensed in the usual clinical practice of our center, its cost, total savings and cost saving/patient. To calculate savings: sum of direct costs of these drugs.
- ongoing OCT (non-haematological)
- dispensations
- OCT dispensations

Results

VARIABLES	Nº TOTAL
active clinical trials	88
ongoing OCT	51
patients included in OCT	245
Total dispensations	6.481
OCT dispensations	3.356
Dispensed OD provided by the promoter (%)	82%
OD dispensed in the usual clinical practice	29

OD DISPENSED IN THE USUAL CLINICAL PRACTICE	Nº dispensed units	Cost saving
bevacizumab	89	113.287 €
nivolumab	277	394.725 €
pemetrexed	817	980.400 €
nab-paclitaxel	1.187	284.880 €
others	5.355	1.116.860 €
total	7.725	2.890.152 €
Cost saving/patient		11.796,5 €

Conclusion

At present, OCT prevails over those in other areas (60%) and although they imply a significant impact of economic saving on the costs of pharmaceutical treatments and health service, activity also increases considerably (52% of total dispensations) and care of hospital pharmacy services.

In addition, preparing chemotherapies is a highly critical activity which implies an increase in the time of dispensing compared to other treatments.

The role of the pharmacist is essential in order to promote the development of OCT for the benefit of patients as well as that of the public health system.