

# HOW IS CHEMOTHERAPY USED AT THE END OF LIFE IN A SECONDARY HOSPITAL?

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## BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

Many studies have investigated how chemotherapy is used at the end of life but no clear recommendations have been given.

## AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Analyze treatment aggressiveness and clinical variables of oncohematologic patients who receive chemotherapy at the end of life.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

Observational, retrospective study in a secondary hospital, during 2020.

**Inclusion criteria:** patients who died in the hospital and were visited by oncologists or hematologists.

**Variables:** demographic, prescription department, diagnosis and states, last treatment received, administration via, date and performance status\* on the latest administration, time since the last administration until the patient died.

An aggressive treatment was the one administrated 14 days before death.

\* Measured with ECOG scale.

Data was collected from electronic health record.

## RESULTS



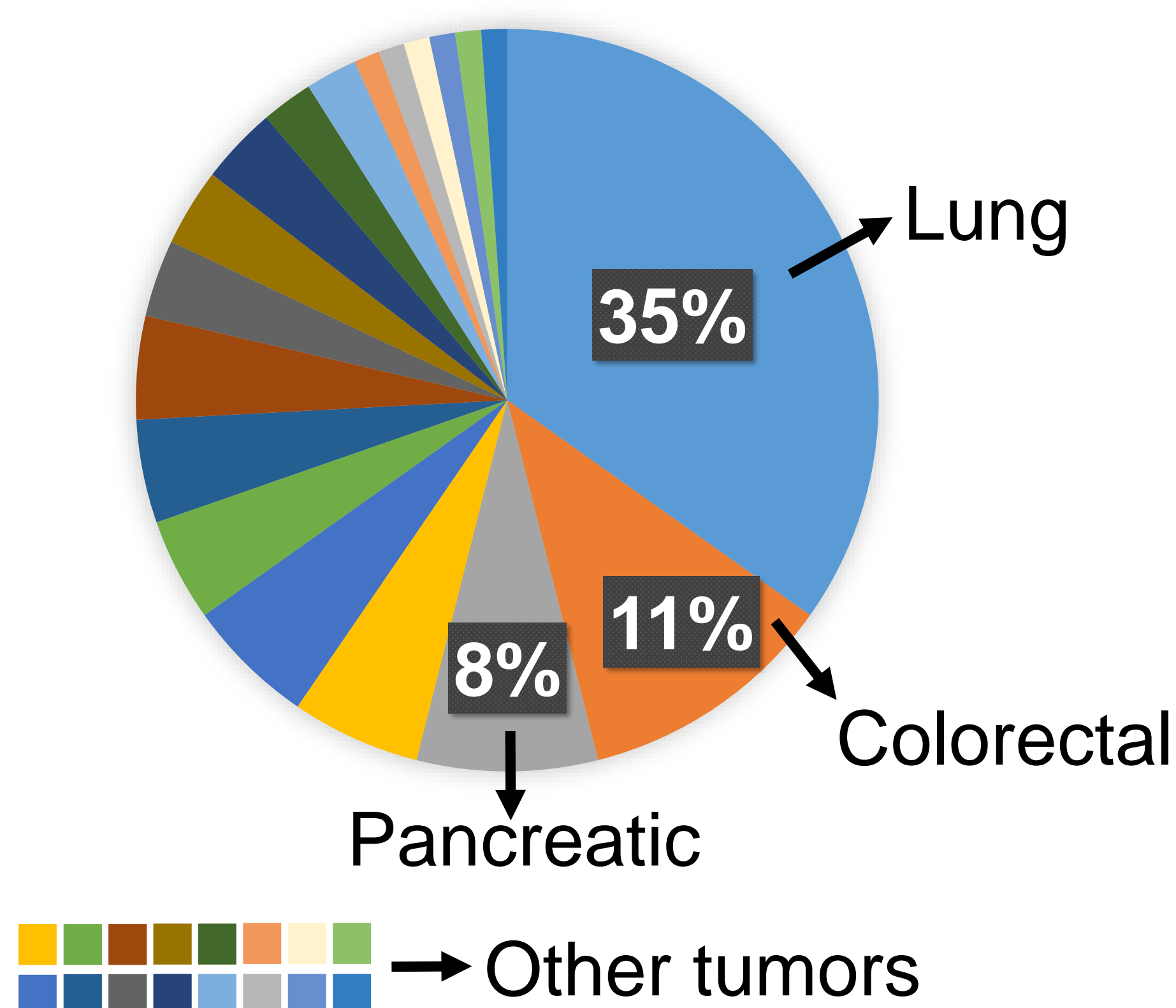
89 patients → 64% ♂, median 71 years (IQR:64-78)

Oncology department: 82

Hematology department: 7

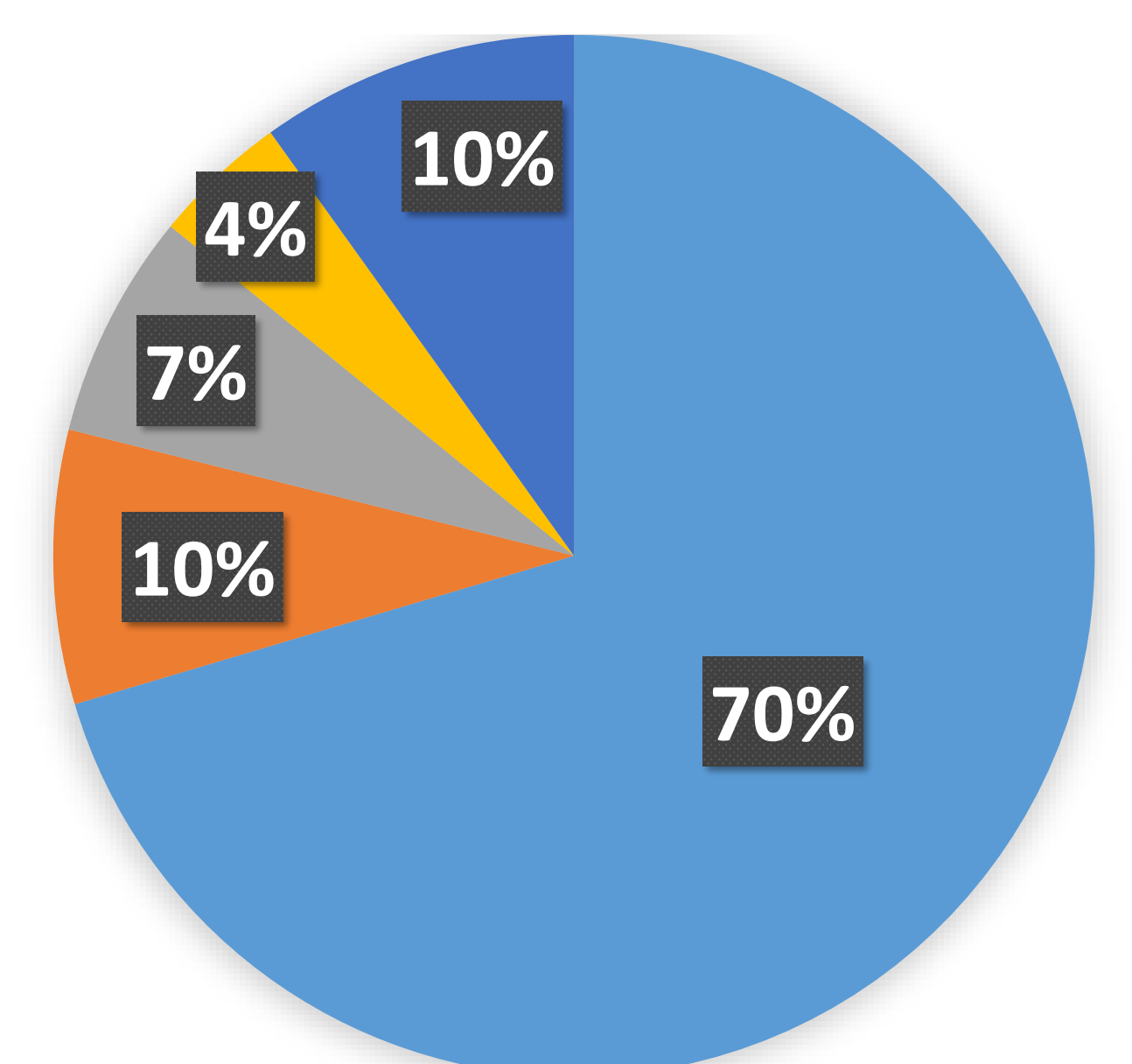
71 patients received active treatment

- 50 intravenous
- 13 oral
- 3 oral + intravenous
- 5 radiotherapy



ECOG	
1-2	80,9%
3-4	19,1%

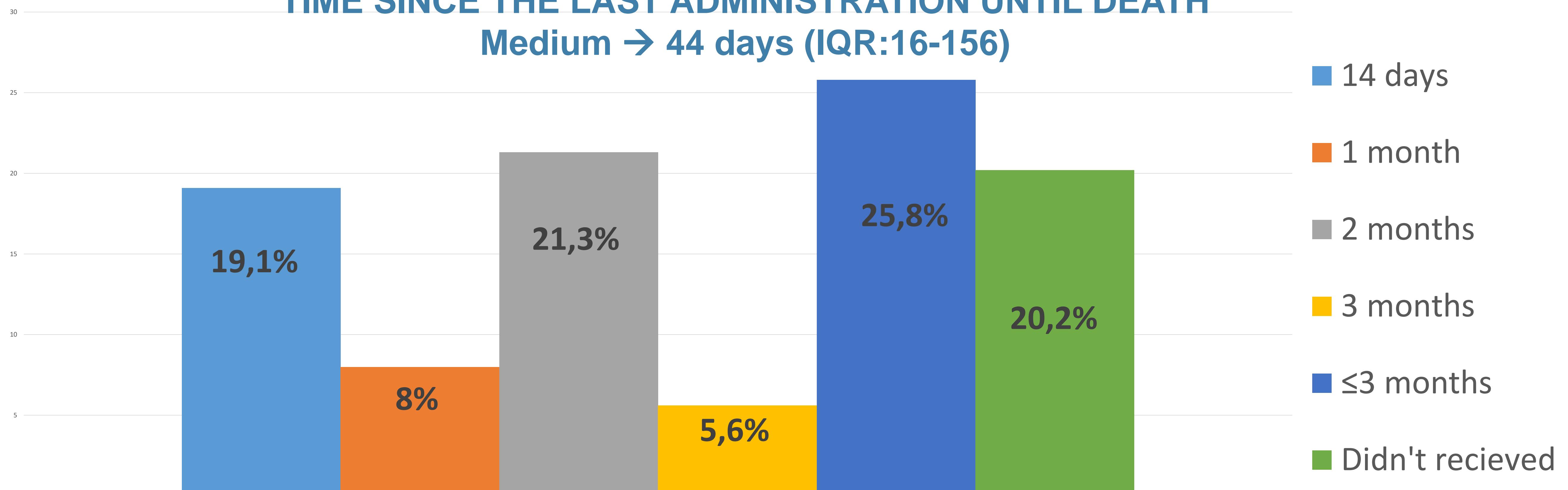
- Chemotherapy
- Immunotherapy
- Radiotherapy
- Hormonotherapy
- No treatment



86.5% of patients → advanced cancer

## TIME SINCE THE LAST ADMINISTRATION UNTIL DEATH

Medium → 44 days (IQR:16-156)



## CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ The number of patients who received aggressive treatment was slightly bigger than data published in other studies such as Earle et al, 2003.
- ❖ Most patients belonged to Oncology department and had ECOG 1-2, being advanced lung cancer the most common diagnosis and chemotherapy the most common treatment.
- ❖ The main limitation of the study is the non-inclusion of patients who died outside the hospital. It would be interesting to continue this line of investigation.