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# "Financial evaluation of the surplus generated by the dispensing of sunitinib in the local health service of Reggio Emilia"

Zoboli D\*, Curinga C, Stelluto V, Di Pede S, Busani C.

Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale, Pharmacy Department, Reggio Emilia, Italy

Correspondence to: [valentina.stelluto@ausl.re.it](mailto:valentina.stelluto@ausl.re.it)

## BACKGROUND

Oral cancer therapy has revolutionized the approach to the disease, as invasive procedures are no longer required, and patients remain in their daily life with practical and psychological benefits.

## PURPOSE

Check whether the packaging of SUTENT® (sunitinib), an oral cancer drugs monitored by the Italian Medicines Agency (AIFA), provided through dispensing by two Pharmaceutical Unit Districts (UFD) of the Local Health Service (LHS) of Reggio Emilia, is suitable in terms of dosage units, to ensure coverage of the treatment plan prescribed to cancer patients. The marketing packaging authorized consists of 30 capsules.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

From September 2007 to September 2012, patients included in this study received at least one dispensing of SUTENT®. We used the register of oncology drugs subjected to intensive AIFA monitoring to obtain information about:

number of dispensations

dose / day prescribed (e.g. 50 mg);

total dose prescribed (e.g. 1400 mg);

total dose dispensed (e.g. 1500 mg);

The total dose of medication prescribed, corresponding to a cycle of therapy (i.e. 28 capsules) is less than the total dose of drug dispensed, corresponding to 30 capsules. For each cycle, there is a predictable surplus of 2 capsules.

## RESULTS

The economic surplus of SUTENT is reported for 31 patients.

The overall cost of therapy delivered in the study period is €492,278. The excess of SUTENT® represents 6.67% of the total cost of therapy, i.e. €32,819.

GUASTALLA							
	sept-dic 2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	jan-sept 2012	tot.
n° patients	1	3	2	4	8	7	25
Total cost of therapy (euro)	11220	75735	51892.5	71527.5	100980	120615	431970
Economic surplus (euro)	748	5049	3459.5	4768.5	6732	8041	28798
% of the total cost	6.67%	6.67%	6.67%	6.67%	6.67%	6.67%	6.67%

CORREGGIO							
	sept-dic 2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	jan-sept 2012	tot.
n° patients	2	1	1	0	1	1	6
Total cost of therapy (euro)	9817.5	4207.5	12622.5	0	5610	28050	60307.5
Economic surplus (euro)	654.5	280.5	841.5	0	374	1870	4020.5
% of the total cost	6.67%	6.67%	6.67%	0.00%	6.67%	6.67%	6.67%

## CONCLUSIONS

In order to save money, it would help to dispense to the patient the exact number of dosage units provided by prescription.

This idea is supported by an analysis of the savings made for the XELODA®. All patients received the exact number of dosage units in all UFD of the LHS of Reggio Emilia. From January 2010 to June 2012 found savings by Health Authority of €57,602.