

Chemotherapy Meets Herbal Medicine: Navigating the Interaction Maze in Thoracic Oncology




Louise NICOLAS; Margot DESCHAMPS; Nejib BORGAAOUI; Jimmy ROSE; Jennifer LE GRAND
 Pharmacy Unit, Bichat-Claude Bernard Hospital, APHP, 46 rue Henri Huchard, PARIS 75018

1 Why was it done ?

Clinical pharmacy activities in the thoracic oncology department

Analysis the interactions between chemotherapy and Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM)



Cancer patients often seek alternative treatments which requires a rigorous evaluation of potential interactions.

Study goal : **To assess the methods used to analyze these interactions**

2 What was done ?

Analysis traceability by tracking table for requests

Key information

- name
- date of birth
- purpose of the analysis

5 information sources selected

- Herbal Medicine section of MedlinePlus
- Website of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC)
- Database of plants and dietary supplements published by the French National Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety
- Database from the European Scientific Cooperative on Phytotherapy
- Publication from the journal Medical Oncology (Vol 36, number 45, 2019)

3 How was it done?


25 Interactions requests processed during 9 months

Duration 30 minutes
 Completed 24 to 48 hours

70% From doctors

Drugs	n
Oral chemotherapies	18
<i>Osimertinib</i>	13
<i>Others</i>	5
IV Chemotherapies	7

Requests involved various CAM (essential oils, medicinal plants, dietary supplements), with an average of 4 products per request.



Desmodium was the most frequently analyzed product (n=5)


In total, for **24 CAM**, including Desmodium, was **not recommended for use** after analysis due the drug interaction risk and modification of liver metabolism of chemotherapies.

4 What has been achieved ?

It is difficult to prohibit CAM to patients, and most substances can be taken at recommended doses


However, determining the precise dosage at which an interaction with chemotherapy occurs is complex due to the lack of a single reference.

- Various sources allows
- cross-referencing expertise
 - obtaining complementary information



generalist approach

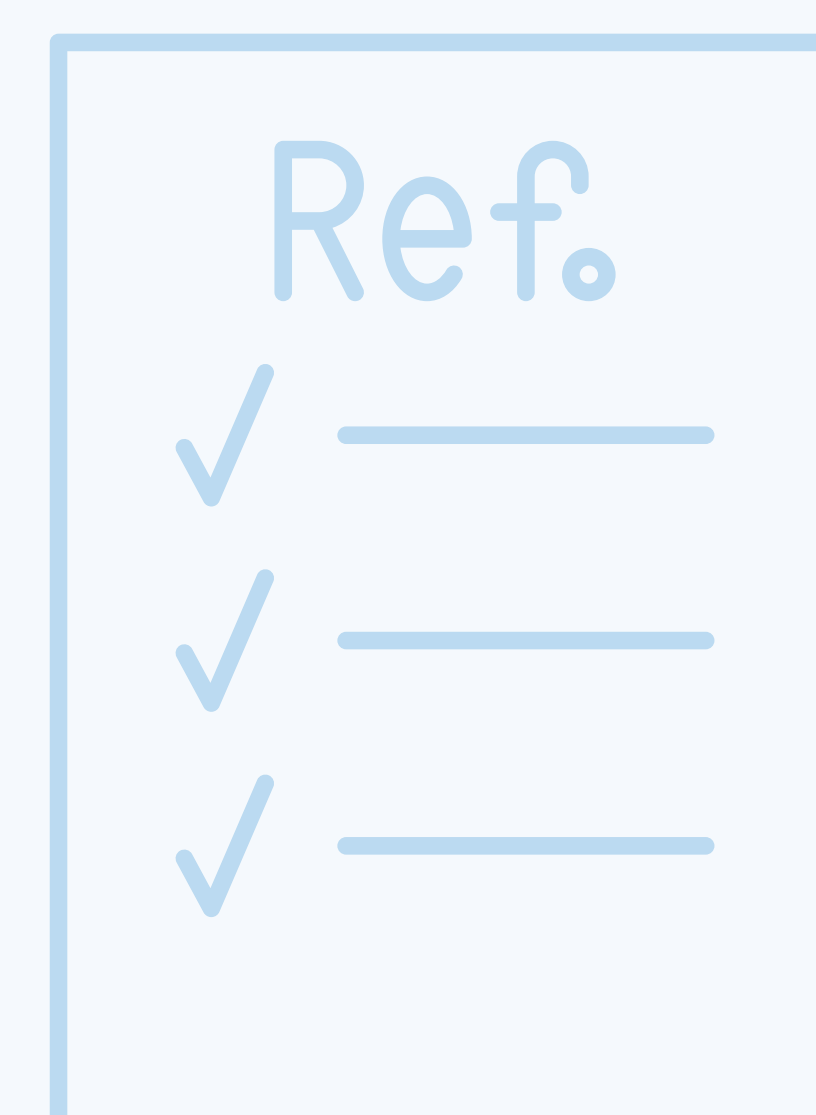
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oncology approach

Using international sources broadens the analysis and fills geographical or cultural gaps

5 What's next ?



For the future, we would like to develop a tool that compiles the five data sources in order to be exhaustive in our future analysis