

Sarcomas in Europe: strengthening the policy response

A family of rare cancers that develop in the connective tissues¹

Significant heterogeneity

More than **70** different types²

Can occur **anywhere** in the **body**²

As a result:

Healthcare professionals: difficult to acquire specialist training



Patients: late or mis-diagnosis, limited access to specialist care



Research: challenging to find treatments specific to each type of sarcoma



Health care system: high costs due to variability of quality of care



Some of the poorest patient experiences of any cancer type¹

1% of all cancers,

2% of all cancer deaths³



Up to **40%** incorrect diagnosis^{4,5}



Only **22%** of patients participate in clinical trials¹



Up to **1 in 4** patients treated for something else⁶



Significant **inequalities** across Europe in access to available treatments

The Sarcoma Policy Checklist - What is needed to improve sarcoma care?

1



Designated and accredited centres of reference for sarcoma in each country

2



Greater **professional training** for all health care professionals involved in sarcoma care

3



A **multidisciplinary approach** to care for every patient with sarcoma

4



Greater **incentives** for research and innovation

5



More **rapid access** to effective treatments

References

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3. Sharma S, Takyar S, Manson SC, *et al.* Efficacy and safety of pharmacological interventions in second- or later-line treatment of patients with advanced soft tissue sarcoma: a systematic review. *BMC Cancer* 2013;13(1):1-21.
4. Lurkin A, Ducimetière F, Vince DR, *et al.* Epidemiological evaluation of concordance between initial diagnosis and central pathology review in a comprehensive and prospective series of sarcoma patients in the Rhone-Alpes region. *BMC Cancer* 2010;10(1):1-12.
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6. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Improving Outcomes for People with Sarcoma: the Manual. NICE Guidance on Cancer Services: Developed by the National Collaborating Centre for Cancer, 2006:142.

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For a copy of the report, go to: www.sarcoma-patients.eu/