

STATE OF THE ART ONCOLOGY IN EUROPE OECI

Organisation of European Cancer Institutes EEIG

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AN UPDATED DATABASE ON EVIDENCE-BASED DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT IN ONCOLOGY WITH A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE

Established in 1995, since September 2002 START has been one of the services provided by Alleanza Contro il Cancro (“Alliance Against Cancer” - ACC), the organization of the Italian institutes for Cancer Research, through the Italian Health Institute (ISS), under the auspices of the Italian Health Ministry. In 2009 START-OECI has become an operative instrument of the European Comprehensive Cancer Centers members of the OECI for the accomplishment of recommendations on diagnosis and treatment on cancer.

START is meant to be an on-line database on state-of-the-art knowledge about cancer diagnostics and treatment with a European perspective. This means that the statements on main clinical “options” are codified and accompanied by codified “levels of evidence” and “type of basis”, according to an originally devised classification.

START AT A GLANCE

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
OBJECTIVE?	To create, maintain and spread a European database on diagnosis and multidisciplinary treatment of human malignant neoplasms, according to an evidence-based methodology
LANGUAGE?	English and Italian
CONTRIBUTORS?	European (30% belonging to an OECI Member Center, representing 15 European Countries)
MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH?	Yes
EVIDENCE-BASED METHODOLOGY?	Yes original (Ann Oncol 1999; 10: 769-773)
LEVELS OF EVIDENCE?	EBM “grey zone” ranked
TOTAL N. OF AVAILABLE CHAPTERS?	166
FOR PROFESSIONALS	80 (English) + 53 (Italian)
FOR PATIENTS	33
UPDATING?	Regular
EDITORIAL FEATURE?	Internet hypertext; downloadable .pdf and link to abstract from Medline
RELEVANT CITATIONS?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann Oncol 2008; 19: 2067-2078 • START Methodology in British Sarcoma Group’s Guidelines
ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS?	35 Reviews in Crit Rev Oncol Hematol (IF 4.6)

PROFESSIONAL AREA

The screenshot shows the website interface for the Professional Area. At the top, there are navigation tabs: HOME, PROFESSIONAL AREA, AREA PUBBLICA, CONTRIBUTORS, LINKS, ABOUT START, GLOSSARIO, and JOIN. Below the navigation is the START logo and a search bar. A list of chapters is displayed, including: ACUTE LEUKAEMIAS (2 Chapters), AIDS-RELATED TUMOURS (2 Chapters), ANTIEMETIC THERAPY (1 Chapter), BRAIN CANCERS (7 Chapters), BREAST CANCER (2 Chapters), CANCER OF PANCREAS (1 Chapter), CANCER PAIN THERAPY (1 Chapter), CARCINOMA OF UNKNOWN PRIMARY (1 Chapter), CHRONIC LEUKAEMIAS (1 Chapter), CLINICAL DECISION MAKING (1 Chapter), ESOPHAGEAL CANCER (1 Chapter), GASTRO-INTESTINAL TRACT CANCERS (5 Chapters), GENITO-URINARY TRACT CANCERS (5 Chapters), GYNAECOLOGIC CANCERS (2 Chapters), HEAD AND NECK CANCERS (5 Chapters), HISTIOCYTE DISORDERS (4 Chapters), LIVER CANCER (1 Chapter), LUNG CANCERS (2 Chapters), LYMPHOMAS (18 Chapters), MEDULLOBLASTOMA (1 Chapter), MELANOMA (1 Chapter), and ONCOLOGIC EMERGENCIES (10 Chapters). There is also a 'News' section with a 'Subscribe' button for the newsletter.

PROFESSIONAL AREA
English (80 chapters)
Italian (53 chapters)

PUBLIC AREA
Italian (33 chapters)

MEAN OF 35.000
VISITORS/MONTH

CHAPTER

The screenshot shows a chapter page with the following content:

- 1. GENERAL INFORMATION**
- 1.1.1 Epidemiological data**
- 1.1.1.1 Incidence and mortality**
- Oesophageal cancer is the sixth most common cancer in the non industrialized countries and it ranks as the 18th most frequent cancer in non industrialized countries. Around 32,600 cases and 28,200 deaths occurred in 2006 in Europe (Ferlay 2007).
- Oesophageal cancer is a disease of low income countries (Figure 1). Around the world, in men, age adjusted annual incidence rates range from more than 20 per 100,000 in region of the Eastern and Southern Africa and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia to less than 2 per 100,000 in Northern, western, and middle Africa, Central America, and South-Eastern Asia.
- Figure 1. Incidence of oesophageal cancer in the male population of the world**
- Worldwide map showing incidence rates by region.
- Legend: < 21, 21-34, 34-62, 62-93, > 93
- Oesophageal cancer is a disease of mid to late adulthood (60-70 years). Oesophageal cancer is one of the most common malignancies among black men under age 55 (Figure 2). Worldwide, rates are higher in men than women, by around five to two.