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Abstracts

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Quality indicators of clinical cancer care (QC3) in the territory of canton Ticino: preliminary results in colorectal cancer

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Background. Quality of cancer care (QoCC) studies showed an improvement in the oncologic cares. QoCC can vary depending on the particular medical condition, with deficits in the adherence to recommended processes for basic care being frequently observed. One of the main challenges in the previous studies was due to the delay from the analysis of the first specimen in pathology and the registration of the incident cases at the cancer registry (CR).

Patients and methods. The QC3 is a prospective (01.01.2011–31.12.2013) population-based study, which analyses the QoCC of colorectal (CRC), prostate, ovarian, endometrial and lung tumours in Canton Ticino. We selected the patients and relative cases, incident since 2011, treated both in the regional public and private hospitals. The peculiarity of the Ticino CR is of being located inside the cantonal institute of pathology: the incident cases are recorded real-time. With the aid of working groups, we identified for each localization a list of quality indicators (QI), then selected by a two-round modified Delphi process and validated by an international Advisory Board.

Results. We present the preliminary results of the CRCs incident in 2011 (n=243), for whom we have defined the QI. The initial CRC QI (n=149) underwent the process shown above, and 74 were finally selected: we present a list of 16 QI.

Conclusions. This study aims to produce evidence-based QI, whose application could allow an immediate change in the diagnostic-treatment process that could be translated in a short-term benefit for patients and as target values for analogue studies.