

Quality in Cancer Care: Activities in and Experiences from Austria

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Abstract

Because of rising costs and a need for decision-making on quality of cancer care, Austria has set up several quality initiatives. The presentation will focus on the following three initiatives:

A **Horizon Scanning System/ HSS:**

The establishment of a HSS for anticancer drugs in 2009 was an important tool to prepare drug commissions in Austrian hospitals for decisions to in- or exclude new medicines in/from the benefit catalogue. The HSS has the aim of facilitating the evidence-based use of anticancer therapies and of pre-estimating their potential financial implications in order to better inform decision-makers before the routine introduction of anti-cancer drugs into clinical practice. Until now 48 new drugs were assessed.

A **national Roadmap for coordinated cancer care:**

The spectrum of conditions classified under the term cancer poses particular challenges for quality measurement. Multimodal treatment combinations (surgery, chemo-, hormone-, immune-, radiation therapy) for this increasingly chronic illness frequently alternate between in- and outpatient settings. For these reasons Austria has, as many other European countries, launched a roadmap for increased coordination of care including indicators to measure the anticipated improvement of quality of care.

Report on **indicators to measure quality of cancer care:**

As a basis for measuring the quality of cancer care the LBI-HTA reported on ongoing activities and initiatives in the area of quality measurement in cancer care, worldwide. 17 complete indicator sets were found and presented. □