Geriatric screening and assessment among older patients with cancer: Evaluation of long-term patient outcomes in a multicentric prospective cohort study of almost 12,000 patients.


Introduction:

The **geriatric screening and assessment**-based approach to evaluate the general health status of older patients with cancer has gained increasing attention the last two decades. Because of limited follow-up, most studies focus on short-term benefits and little is known about the prognostic value of geriatric screening and assessment over time.

Methods:

- Cancer registration data and vital status
- Hospitalization data
- Medical acts and reimbursed drugs
- Linked by unique patient ID
- Multicentric cohort: 11,968 patients aged ≥ 70 years with cancer
- Long-term patient outcomes

Objectives:

This study aims to explore the association between the general health status of older patients with cancer as assessed by geriatric screening (G8) and assessment scores, and **long-term outcomes captured by population-based administrative data**. In addition, the potential impact of geriatric interventions on long-term outcomes will be studied.

Results and Conclusion:

- Relevant long-term endpoints were defined and their measurability was evaluated based on the administrative data available in Belgium. Endpoints range from the **care trajectory to end-of-life care and survival**. Examples include the need for home care, need for institutionalization, number of hospitalizations and use of palliative care.
- Approval of the Belgian **Information Security Committee** was obtained and the **dataflow** to link primary study data to administrative and registry data is currently in its final stages. Initial results from the analysis of the linked dataset will follow.

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