

Price comparison of oncology medicines in 16 European countries

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Objectives

1) To survey the prices of oncology medicines in European countries, 2) to explore differences across the countries, and 3) to analyze the development of oncology medicine prices from 2007 till 2013

Methods

Countries: Austria (AT), Belgium (BE), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Greece (EL), Finland (FI), France (FR), Italy (IT), Ireland (IE), the Netherlands (NL), Norway (NO), Portugal (PT), Spain (ES), Sweden (SE), Switzerland (CH) and United Kingdom (UK)

Medicines: 31 oncology medicines – 32 presentations (31 originators and 1 generic) as at Q2/2013, 16 presentations for time series analysis

Data source: Pharma Price Information (PPI) service of Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (GÖG/Austrian Health Institute)

Time-period: Q2/2007– Q2/2013 (2009 data missing), data as of Q2 & Q4

Methodology:

Selection of a 'comparable presentation' = same pharmaceutical form, same dosage, and same or closest pack size

Selection criterion for inclusion in the analysis: minimum data coverage of 10 countries (time series: at least three data points over time)

Originator and generic versions were analysed separately

Comparison of ex-factory prices per unit (official list prices, without discounts and rebates)

Conversion of non-Euro national currencies into Euro based on average exchange rate of previous month provided by European Central Bank

Results

Oncology medicines are high-price medicines. Ex-factory price per unit, Q2/2013, medicine price of the highest-priced country

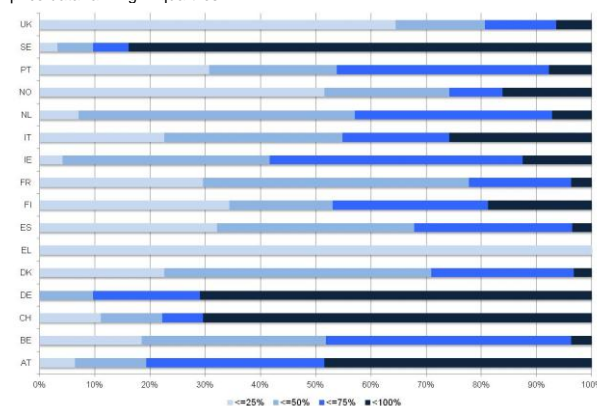
Ex-fact pr./unit (Q2/13)	Medicines (selected presentations)
< € 1.-	-
€ 1.01 – € 10.-	-
€ 10.01 – € 50.-	7 medicines: abiraterone acetate, imatinib, lapatinib, nilotinib, pazopanib, sorafenib tosylate
€ 50.01 – € 100.-	2 medicines: erlotinib, gefitinib
€ 100.01 – € 250.-	6 presentations: cetuximab, denosumab, everolimus, gemcitabine (originator/generic version), sunitinib
€ 250.01 – € 500.-	8 medicines: bendamustine hcl, eribulin mesylate, interferon alfa 2b, lenalidomide, nelarabine, ofatumumab, paclitaxel albumin, zoledronic acid
€ 500.01 – € 1,000.-	2 medicines: temsirolimus, trastuzumab
€ 1,000.01 – € 5,000.-	6 medicines: bevacizumab, bortezomib, cabazitaxel, clofarabine, pantumumab, pemetrexed
€ 5,000.01 – € 10,000.-	1 medicine: plerixafor

Price range between the countries

Price of the highest priced medicine is ... % higher than of the lowest priced medicine	
0 – 25%	-
25% – 50%	9 medicines: cabazitaxel, cetuximab, denosumab, eribulin mesylate, nilotinib, ofatumumab, panitumumab, sorafenib tosylate, vemurafenib
50% – 75%	13 medicines: bevacizumab, bortezomib, clofarabine, erlotinib, everolimus, gefitinib, imatinib, lenalidomide, nelarabine, pazopanib, plerixafor, temsirolimus, trastuzumab
75% – 100%	5 medicines: abiraterone acetate, bendamustine hcl, lapatinib, paclitaxel albumin, sunitinib
100% – 200%	2 medicines: pemetrexed, zoledronic acid
Twice – 5 times	2 medicines: gemcitabine (originator), interferon alfa 2b
> 5 times	1 medicine: gemcitabine (generic version) – 12 times

Results/continued

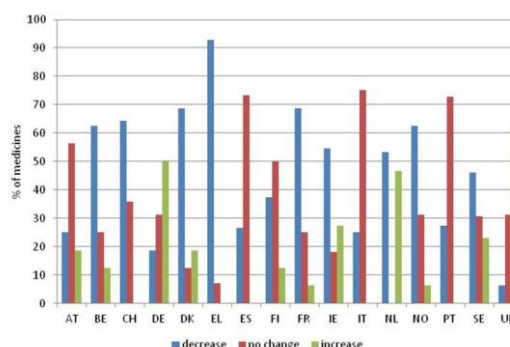
Medicine prices ranked per quartile. Frequency of country-specific medicine price data ranking in quartiles.



Total n = 32 (31 originator medicines and 1 generic) in FI; n = 31 in AT, DE, DK, IT, NO, SE, UK; n = 28 in ES, NL; n = 27 in BE, CH, IE; n = 25 in EL; n = 24 in IE; n = 13 in PT

- Medicine prices in EL always ranked in the 1st quartile, followed by UK (64%) and Norway (52%)
- Countries whose medicine prices were frequently in the 4th quartile were SE (84%), DE and CH (both: > 70%)
- Medicine prices in France, the Netherlands, Italy and Ireland ranked in the (lower) middle (35-50% of the medicines had prices in the 2nd quartile)
- In nearly 2/3 of the surveyed medicines prices in EL were lowest
- For around 1/3 of the medicines prices in CH, SE and DE were highest in comparison

Development in prices of oncology medicines. Q2/2007-Q2-2013



Total n = 16 (15 originator medicines and 1 generic) in all countries unless ES, NL – 15; CH, EL – 14; SE – 13; IE, PT – 12 countries
For 7 medicines only data from Q4/2010 – Q2/2013 available

Conclusions

Medicine prices varied considerably between the European countries. Germany, Sweden and Switzerland were high price countries. Greek prices nearly always ranked in the first quartile and were frequently the lowest in comparison, and they had been subject to frequent price cuts – a likely response to the global financial crisis.

Actual prices of oncology medicines for public payers are assumed to be lower in several European countries due to discounts, rebates, managed-entry agreements and similar arrangements that are held confidential.

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