

Sarcomas in Europe: strengthening the policy response

A family of rare cancers that develop in the connective tissues¹

Significant heterogeneity

More than  different types²

Can occur *anywhere* in the body²

As a result:

Healthcare professionals: difficult to acquire specialist training



Patients: late or mis-diagnosis, limited access to specialist care



Research: challenging to find treatments specific to each type of sarcoma



Health care system: high costs due to variability of quality of care



Some of the poorest patient experiences of any cancer type¹

1% of all cancers, **2%** of all cancer deaths³



Up to **40%** incorrect diagnosis^{4,5}



Only **22%** of patients participate in clinical trials¹








Up to **1 in 4** patients treated for something else⁶



Significant **inequalities** across Europe in access to available treatments

The Sarcoma Policy Checklist - What is needed to improve sarcoma care?

- 1  **Designated and accredited** centres of reference for sarcoma in each country
- 2  Greater **professional training** for all health care professionals involved in sarcoma care
- 3  A **multidisciplinary approach** to care for every patient with sarcoma
- 4  Greater **incentives** for research and innovation
- 5  More **rapid access** to effective treatments

1. Sarcoma UK. The National Sarcoma Survey, Transforming Patient Experience, 2015:35.

2. Fletcher C, Bridge JA, Hogendoorn P, et al. WHO Classification of Tumours of Soft Tissue and Bone. Fourth Edition. WHO Classification of Tumours, 2013:468.

3. Sharma S, Takyar S, Manson SC, et al. Efficacy and safety of pharmacological interventions in second- or later-line treatment of patients with advanced soft tissue sarcoma: a systematic review. BMC Cancer 2013;13(1):1-21.

4. Lurkin A, Ducimetière F, Vince DR, et al. Epidemiological evaluation of concordance between initial diagnosis and central pathology review in a comprehensive and prospective series of sarcoma patients in the Rhone-Alpes region. BMC Cancer 2010;10(1):1-12.

5. Ray-Coquard I, Montesco MC, Coindre JM, et al. Sarcoma: concordance between initial diagnosis and centralized expert review in a population-based study within three European regions. Ann Oncol 2012;23(9):2442-9.

6. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Improving Outcomes for People with Sarcoma: the Manual. NICE Guidance on Cancer Services: Developed by the National Collaborating Centre for Cancer, 2006:142.

The Sarcoma Policy Checklist was developed by a group of leading representatives from patient organisations, clinical experts and industry. This project was initiated and funded by Lilly.

For a copy of the report, go to: www.sarcoma-patients.eu/