

# Poor Prognosis Cancers

An EU initiative as part of the action “Europe against Cancer”

During the French EU presidency in 2022, the French National Cancer Institute (INCA) gathered experts from all of Europe to work on a “Political Declaration – and list of actions against cancer”<sup>1</sup>. As one of four major actions, “**Poor Prognosis Cancers**” were identified to be of most pressing need of attention. These cancers are defined by a ratio of mortality over incidence (M/I) of  $> 0.9$  – in other words less than 10% of patients with these cancers survive<sup>2</sup>. Some of these cancers also qualify as “**neglected cancers**”, a “definition based on literature data and population-based indicators (such as M/I)”<sup>2</sup>. Poor prognosis cancers are primarily those of the upper gastrointestinal tract, especially **cancers of the pancreas, bile ducts and liver (HPB)** while neglected cancers list **pancreatic cancer and ovarian cancer** on top<sup>2,3</sup>.

The political declaration<sup>1</sup> identified three concrete and specific actions:

- 1) Switch research proposal towards “high risk high gain” and set up research programs with high translational agenda.
- 2) Provide a framework of tools to enable data sharing in advance of projects for mutual benefit.
- 3) Ensure the best available care is provided by increasing the quality and speed of delivery (time to diagnosis. Time to treatment) as well as implementation of guidelines and early access to novel therapies.

In pursuit of these action points, the working group has started to collect the scientific evidence to describe the **delay to diagnosis** and **delay to start of therapy** and to demonstrate the **inequality** amongst different tumor diagnosis groups and across Europe. The working group consists of oncologists of different specialties, nurses, and patient representatives.

1. POLITICAL DECLARATION AND LIST OF ACTIONS AGAINST CANCER RECOMMENDED BY A PANEL OF EUROPEAN STAKEHOLDERS. In: Breton T, Ifrah N, editors. 2022 European Meetings of the French National Cancer Institute. Paris.
2. IPAAC. Innovative Partnership for Action Against Cancer. 2022. [www.ipaac.eu/](http://www.ipaac.eu/)
3. Michl P, Löhr M, et al. UEG position paper on pancreatic cancer. Bringing pancreatic cancer to the 21st century: Prevent, detect, and treat the disease earlier and better. *United European Gastroenterol J* 2021; **9**(7): 860-71.

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