

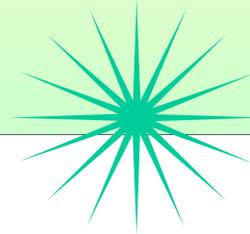


# METRONOMIC CHEMOTHERAPY WITH ORAL VINOURELBINE: EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC EVALUATION

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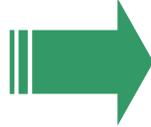
DI-036  
L01-Cytostatics



**Vinorelbine:** antineoplastic drug belonging to the family of vinca alkaloids.

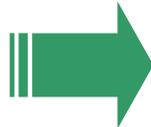
On the market:

- injection for intravenous administration
- soft capsules.



Vinorelbine was made available as an oral formulation:

- to improve access and adherence to treatment
- to reduce procedures and costs of hospitalisation.



with the aim of preventing tumour angiogenesis.

**Metronomic chemotherapy**, compared with traditional schedules, is based on more frequent administration of low dose drugs

## PURPOSE

To investigate the use of metronomic chemotherapy with oral vinorelbine in our hospital; an epidemiological analysis and an economic evaluation were performed.

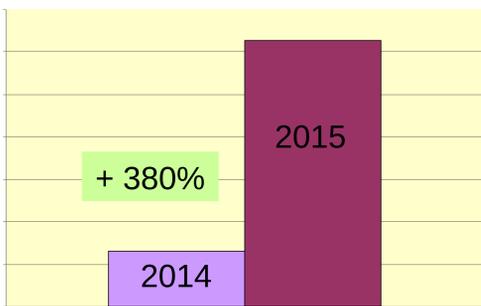
## MATERIAL AND METHODS

- we examined prescriptions of vinorelbine and discharge sheets of oncology outpatient visits in 2015
- we analysed the costs of the treatment schedules

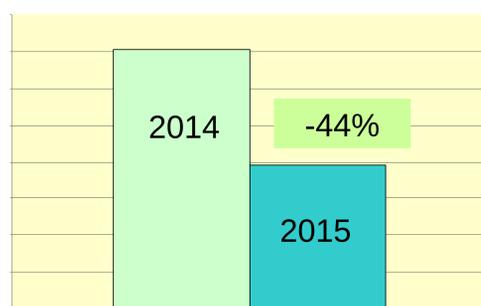
## RESULTS

### drug expenditure

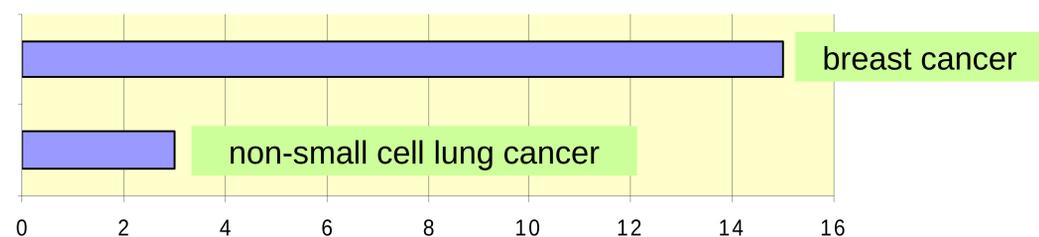
#### oral vinorelbine



#### injectable formulation



### cancer type



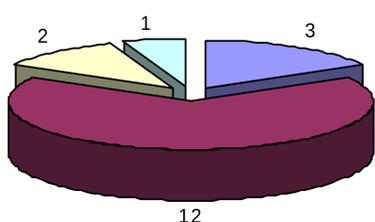
### patients

- 31 patients were treated with oral vinorelbine
- 18 with the metronomic schedule (off-label)
- mean age was 69 years (range 43-85)

- good performance status at the beginning of treatment (12 PS 0, 5 PS 1, 1 missing)
- 15 patients had progressive disease and 3 were partially responding
- mean length of this type of chemotherapy was 3 months
- good compliance
- good tolerance

### posology

Maximum dose: 50 mg 3 times/week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)



- 50 mg
- 40 mg
- 30 mg
- 20 mg

### costs

Direct costs of the oral formulation of vinorelbine (both metronomic and traditional schedule) were higher than the direct costs of the intravenous formulation; for the latter, we must however add the costs of hospitalisation and hospital staff for preparation and administration of the drug.

We can explain the rise in consumption of the oral formulation with the use of metronomic therapy and with an increase in the number of patients.

The metronomic schedule was used as maintenance therapy and the preferred candidate is the elderly patient, a unique setting where the risk/benefit ratio of any antineoplastic treatment should be carefully evaluated.

Metronomic chemotherapy with oral vinorelbine is an appealing option for patients who express their preference for oral chemotherapy.