ENCR Workshop on Recurrences, Granada, 13 November 2023

A Workshop on Recurrences was organised on 13th October 2023, attended by 77 persons and chaired by Dr Anna Gavin.

The aim was to explore the possibilities of cancer registries to collect information on recurrences and to give examples of such practices. The experience of the Netherlands in recording recurrences of breast cancers and resource implications was presented by Dr Otto Visser. Training and validation of a machine learning algorithm estimating distant breast cancer recurrence by the Belgian Cancer Registry (BCR) was presented Dr Freija Verdoodt. In the absence of active registration of recurrences in Belgium, researchers of BCR used administrative data to generate population-level estimates. An example on using patient pathways in identifying the recurrence from England was also given in a joint presentation by Jenni Lai and Karen Graham. The results of the ENCR survey on the practices of the European registries on collecting the recurrences as well as reasons preventing collection were presented by Dr Luciana Neamtiu. The workshop finished with Sinead Hawkins presenting the ENCR working group conclusions with definitions and a presentation of the flow diagram for solid and haematological malignancies with worked examples of recurrence coding.

Group discussions identified exclusion of the following as tumour reductive therapy for the purposes of recording recurrence, progression or transformation by cancer registries

- Maintenance hormone therapy for breast cancer.

- Active surveillance for prostate, thyroid or ovarian cancer.

- It was also noted that a rise in the PSA value should not be considered for registration of recurrence if no treatment was given.

- For prostate cancer and endometrial cancer the hormonal therapy (e.g. progesterone) can be considered as treatment for recurrence purposes.

- Difficulties were recognised identifying the end of treatment for targeted therapies eg. for chronic myeloid leukaemia.

The work should enable quantifying the risk of recurrence within 5 years.

Next steps: the Working Group on Cancer Recurrences will finalise the recommendations that will be shared with the ENCR registries for feedback before final acceptance by the ENCR Steering Committee.

Link to the presentations:

- Introduction to the workshop - Anna Gavin
- Experience of recording recurrence and progression in the Netherlands; implications for the resources - Otto Visser
- Machine learning algorithm to estimate distant breast cancer recurrence at the population level with administrative data - Freija Verdoodt
- Using data and patient pathways to capture and improve recurrence data submission in England - Jenni Lai and Karen Graham
- Cancer registries survey results regarding recurrence data - Luciana Neamtiu
- ENCR working group conclusions defining recurrence, progression & transformation. Presentation of the flow diagram for solid and haematological malignancies with worked examples of recurrence coding - Sinead Hawkins
- Conclusions form the workshop - Anna Gavin