



Oral Antineoplastic Therapy

Basic Considerations

Issues

- the simplified handling of oral antineoplastic agents may cause the perception of an uncomplicated therapy to the patient
- adverse effects of antineoplastic agents may be missed or necessary measures cannot be taken or are induced to late due to the reduced opportunities for monitoring the patient by the physician
- special schedules which very often differ from those for other oral drugs
- increased risk of adverse effects caused by interactions due to the small therapeutic index of many antineoplastic agents
- increased risk of interactions due to oncology specific medication and health conditions
- overestimation of compliance to oral antineoplastic therapy
- possible irregular intake of the oral medication

Hence, oncology patients should be empowered to involve themselves to participate in the development of their therapy with oral antineoplastic agents.

The European Society of Oncology Pharmacy (ESOP) therefore sees the urgent need to contribute to the process of optimizing oral antineoplastic therapy with pharmaceutical care

To reach this goal the following measures have to be taken:

1. continuous documentation of the regular intake of the medication by using a patient diary
2. this diary should also contain a possibility to document the condition of the oncology patient
3. it should furthermore contain information about the prescribed medication (regular package insert and a clearly understandable and readable shorter version)
4. the oncology patient should regularly get counseling and support by a pharmacist, which has gained his/her qualification in a quality assured and suitable training

The required suitable training for interested pharmacists will be provided and secured by the ESOP and its partner.

For the European Society of Oncology Pharmacy (ESOP)

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