

My day with Oncology Pharmacy – Ivory Coast

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1. Introduction

In form of an ESOP survey in March and April 2022, professionals were asked about their working situation in preparation and/or delivering of read-to-use or oral cytotoxic drugs. All relevant daily working processes as activities in prescription and validation of cytotoxic drugs as also their clinical pharmaceutical support in patient care are addressed. This poster presents the country specific evaluation.

2. Material and method

The survey with 18 questions was translated into different languages and performed nationally using a web based application.

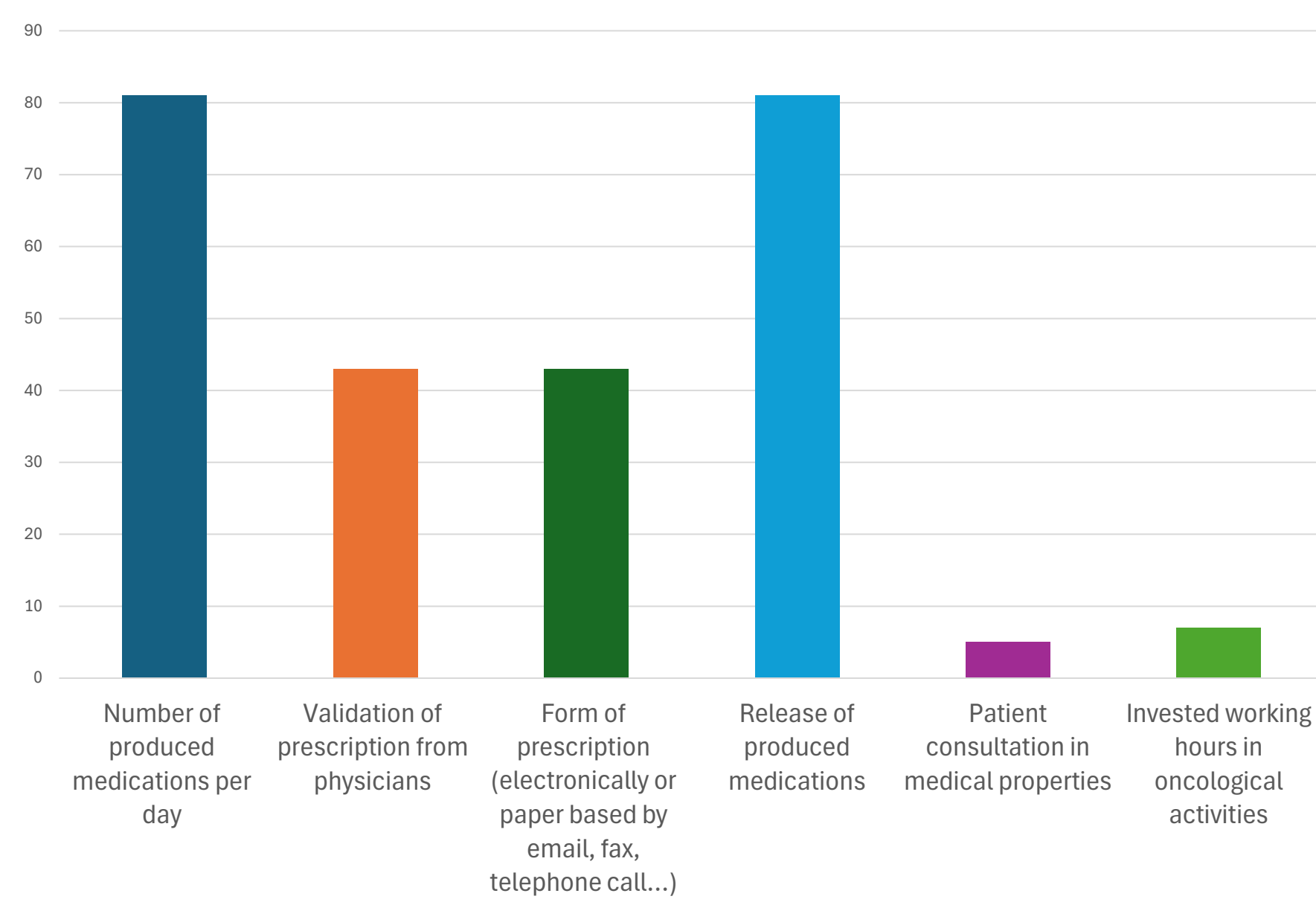


Fig.1: Daily frequency of different pharmacy activities

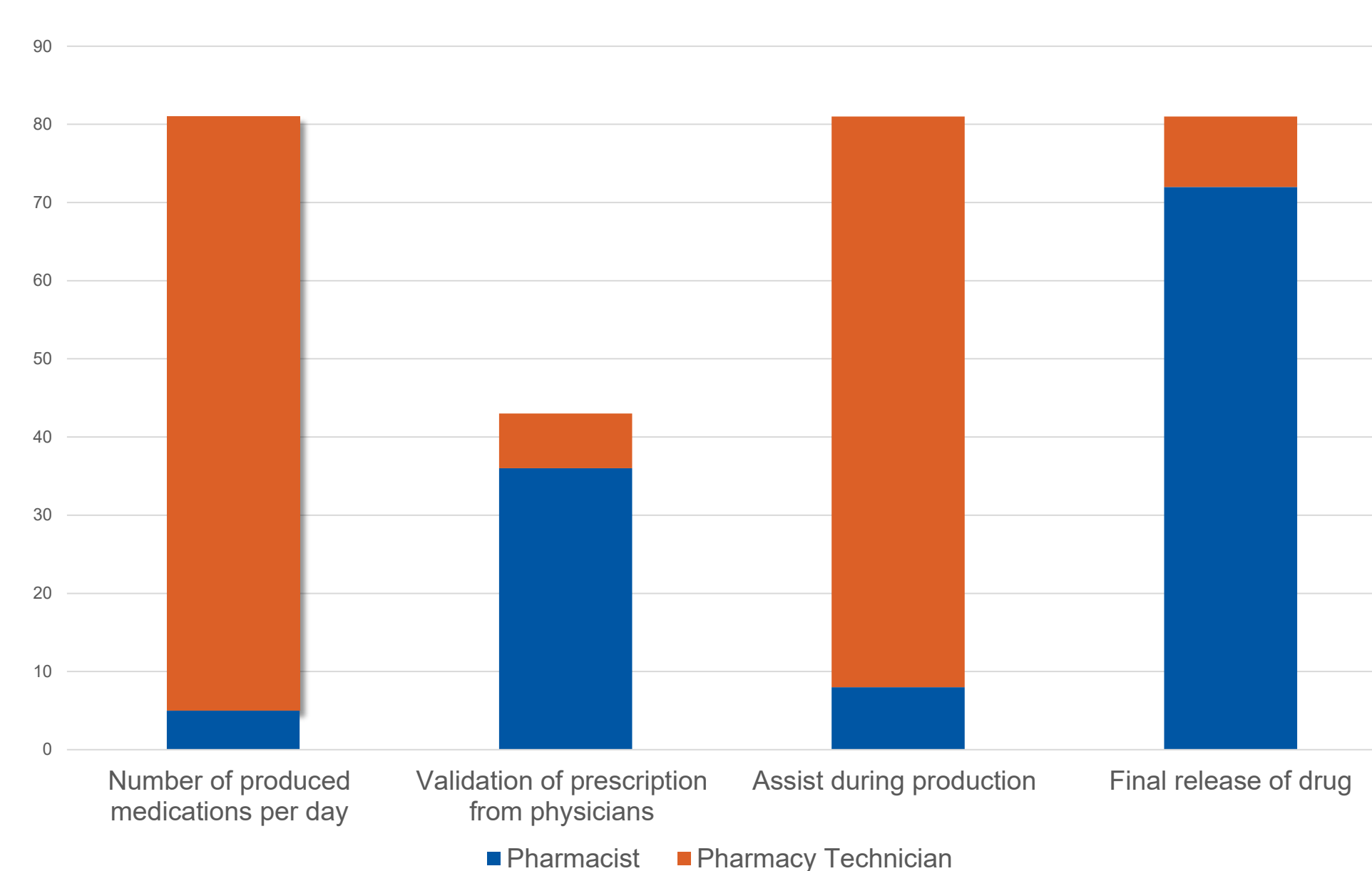


Fig.2: Pharmacists mainly validate the physician's prescription and release the prepared solution, while the technicians mostly prepare the infusions

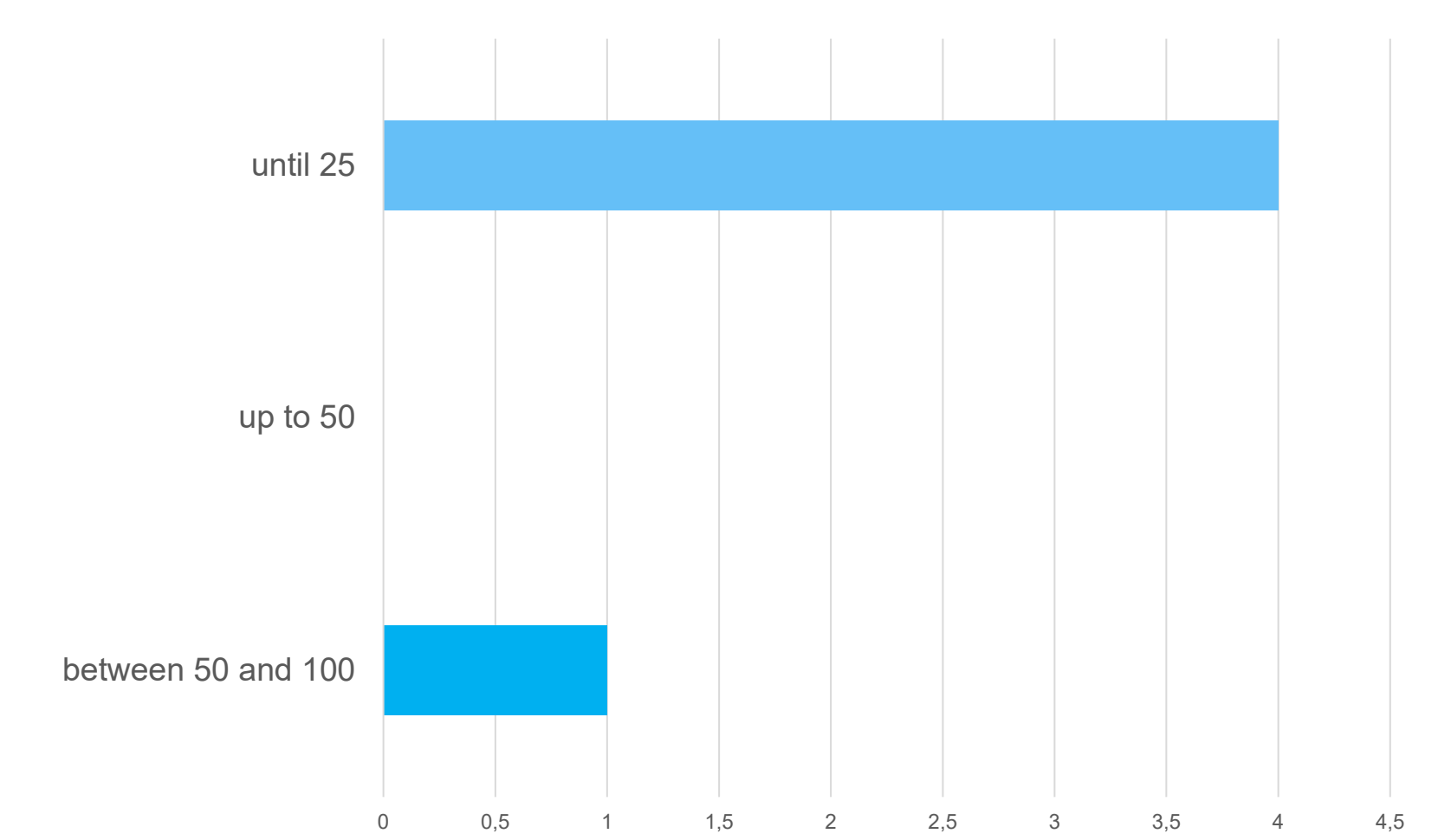


Fig.3: Number of produced i.v. medications

3. Results and discussion

In Ivory Coast, approximately 1300 pharmacists work in the public sector, in administration, universities, hospitals and primary health care. 18 pharmacists work in the 5 or so public hospitals that provide cancer care, although only two pharmacists play a direct role in patient care in two of the five hospitals. The others are heavily involved in logistical activities such as ordering new drugs and checking stock. The 5 hospitals, which participated in the survey, manufacture ready-to-use oncological drugs mainly by gravimetric procedure. Drugs are manufactured by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, who devote 7 hours of their daily time to the various activities of the oncology pharmacy. An average of 81 preparations per day was observed. This activity is mainly carried out by a pharmacy technician, assisted by a preparation assistant who is generally another technician. However, only 50% of all medicines produced are released by pharmacists. 43% of these daily prescriptions are validated by pharmacists. They also handle all the therapeutic data and draw up treatment plans in collaboration with the doctors. They provide patients with advice on how to take cytotoxic drugs, as well as nutritional advice. Manufacturing sheets are designed for each molecule used in the hospital by the pharmacist. These sheets provide information on handling procedures, the appropriate solvent and the stability period for the drugs produced. 1 hospital has a daily production capacity between 50 and 100, 0 produce up to 50 and 4 until 25, All hospitals get mainly paper based prescriptions



Fig.4: Clinical Pharmacist validating the prescription from physicians

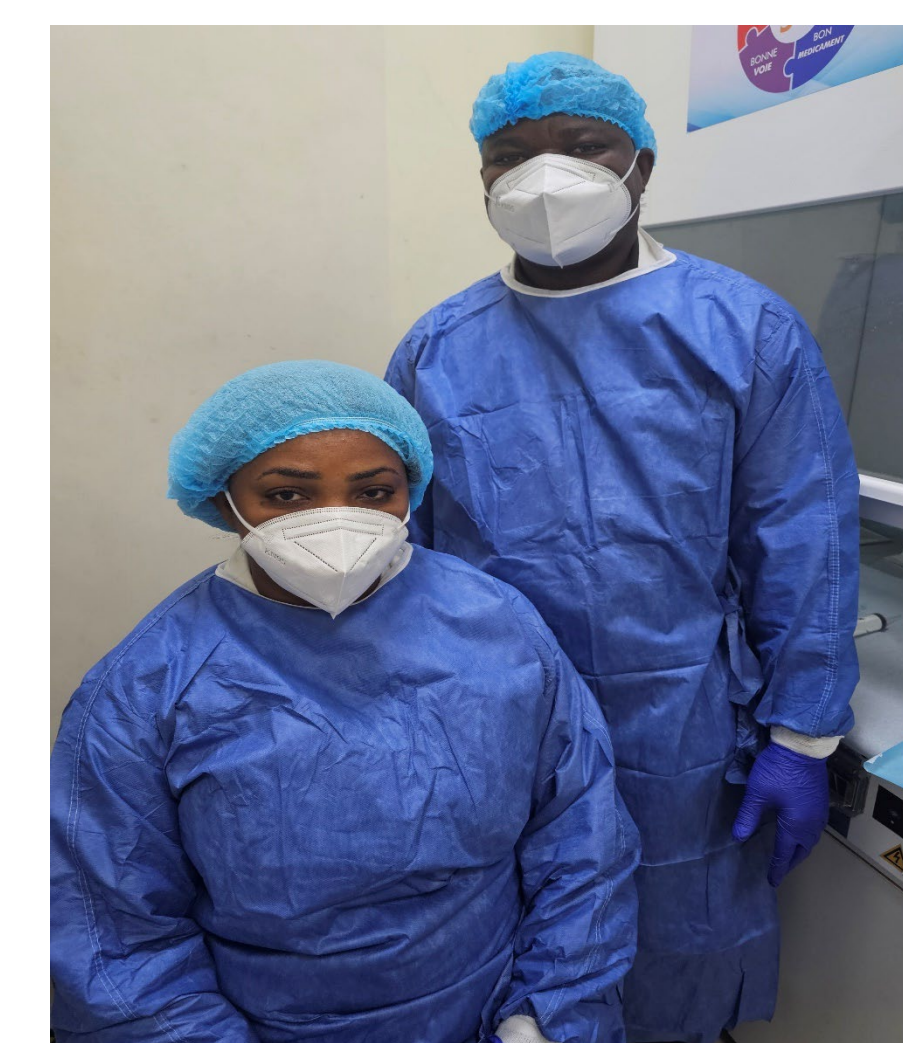


Fig.5: Pharmacy technicians ready to prepare medications

Conclusion

The involvement of hospital pharmacists in the validation of medical prescriptions, the preparation of cytotoxic drugs and the therapeutic education of oncology patients is new and still minor.

The absence of regulations governing these activities and imposing the proper use of medicines explains the lack of involvement of Ivorian health establishments in putting in place the conditions necessary for good pharmaceutical practice.

To improve pharmaceutical practice in oncology, it would be desirable to promote oncology pharmacy through easier access to training and awareness-raising by the Ivorian health authorities

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