

19th Euro Congress on Cancer Science and Therapy & 25th Cancer Nursing & Nurse Practitioners Conference

July 17-19, 2017 Lisbon, Portugal

Creating the best clinical and economic evidence to assist decision-making in urological cancers

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Significant advances have been made in the field of urological cancers, including new health technologies for localized cancers and many innovative drugs for advanced cancers. These novel treatment options are generally more expensive than existing treatments which limits their implementation in current clinical practice. Particularly, several new tests have demonstrated clinical utility and benefits in the screening, diagnosis or treatment phase of prostate cancer. Unfortunately, none of these tests are currently used routinely in clinical practice in Canada or other countries. One of the reasons is the lack of evidence regarding their cost-effectiveness. Recently, the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Healthcare and other similar entities from other countries, recommended against PSA screening in all men. We believe that applying this recommendation regardless of risk- and age-stratification to all men is an extreme strategy, especially considering the lack of economic evidence. An alternative needs to be found in a more proficient way to perform prostate cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment. Identifying the new prognosis/risk-assessment tests or interventions which are cost-effective could be a first step in achieving this goal. Better prostate cancer risk assessment tools will assist the decision-making process, which would finally lead to the best therapeutic options being offered to individual patients, improve overall patient care, and reduce healthcare expenditure. This presentation presents results of several studies aimed to determine the best solutions for urological cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment for improving healthcare delivery to patients, increase access to these new advances, while uncovering better ways to optimize health services and cost allocation.

Biography

Alice Dragomir is an Assistant Professor at the McGill University, Faculty of Medicine, and Scientist in Health Economics and Outcomes Research at the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Center. She is an Economist and Biostatistician with Master's degree in Statistics and Doctoral degree in Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics, from University of Montreal, Canada. She has 14 years of experience in academic research. She was involved in research projects focused on evaluation of health outcomes and health economics related to different treatment strategies, adherence to treatments, health services utilization and disease modeling. Her current research is focused on clinical and economic evaluation of different treatments strategies offered to patients with prostate cancer or other urologic cancers. She has an extended experience in analyzing administrative healthcare databases and disease modeling. Her research represents a valuable tool for decision-makers and clinician leaders while evaluating the clinical and economic impacts of innovative treatments.

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