The UNICANCER Real World Data group

Acquiring, enhancing and centralising existing real word data in oncology

In 2014, R&D UNICANCER launched the Epidemiological Strategy and Medical Economics (ESME) Research programme to centralise existing real-world patient data in oncology in one unique Data Platform. ESME Data platforms provide independent and high quality aggregated data available for analysis by scientific and medical community (via specific calls for projects), as well as to pharmaceutical industry and health authorities (via the provision of statistical reports). So far, data contributors are the French Comprehensive Cancer Centers (FCCC) network; Data modeling is under development to extrapolate ESME data to the whole French territory. ESME Research Programmes are conceived by the UNICANCER Real World Data group, a multi-disciplinary panel of experts (oncologists, methodologists, epidemiologists, pharmacists, health economists, and biostatisticians).

ESME Research Data Platform: source of the collected data

Patient Database
- Patient data collected from Electronic health records
- Demographics, cancer management, clinical events (progression, relapse), pathological report, metastatic disease, anti-cancer treatment (chemotherapy, targeted therapy, endocrine therapy, immunotherapy), and other therapeutic care (radiotherapy, surgery) or supportive care

Treatment Database
- Pharmacy records: dates, anticancer treatments, therapeutic protocol and other concomitant drugs, etc.

Hospitalisation Database
- Hospitalisations: dates, diagnoses, GHS code
- Medical procedures (incl. radiotherapy): dates

Strategic priorities:
- Retrospectively describe French patients cancer therapeutic management and patient characteristics
- Describe the current standard therapeutic strategies and treatment lines
- Describe reported outcomes that tend to impact the therapeutic strategies
- Provide data for market access filing, e.g. target population, cost-effectiveness
- Provide data to support Health Economic Models and requirements from Health Authorities

This programme integrates data from three main sources:
- Patient database: the patient electronic health records (EHR), containing data from unstructured sources (e.g. medical records)
- Treatment database: pharmacy records, describing anti-cancer treatments delivered by the FCCC
- Hospitalisation database: a systematic database (French program for medicalisation)
Transparency and independence are the key words in the ESME Research Programme; any analysis request (coming from an institutional or an industrial partner) is evaluated by the Scientific Committee to ensure compliance with predefined eligibility criteria and scientific pertinence.

The ESME Internal ethics committee monitors any potential conflict of interest related to experts involved in the programme.

The programme is funded by a consortium of industrial partners. Contractual statistical reports are delivered to the partners and a copy is sent to the health authorities.