AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS TO MEDICATIONS AND INTERVENTIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE MASCC/ESMO MUCOSITIS GUIDELINES IN THE COUNTRIES OF FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

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Introduction

- Mucositis, as an oral and gastrointestinal mucosal damage, remains a highly significant toxicity of anticancer treatment.
- Guideline consistent prevention and treatment of mucositis depends on the availability and accessibility of medications and interventions.

Objective

- To evaluate availability and accessibility of medications/interventions recommended by the MASCC/ESMO mucositis guideline 2015. (1) in the countries of former Yugoslavia: Serbia (SRB), Montenegro (MNE), Croatia (HRV), Macedonia (MKD), Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH) and Slovenia(SVN).

Materials and Methods

- Availability of medications was evaluated by the formulary availability and marketing authorization(as registered or not).
- Accessibility was assessed by the coverage of medication/intervention by the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF): as fully reimbursed or payed out- of- pocket.
- Off-label use of medications is not reimbursed by the NHIF.

Results

Table 1.

Medications and interventions		SRB	MNE	HRV	MKD	BIH	SVN
	Amifostine						
	Octreotide						
	Sucralfat enemas						
	Sulfasalazine						
	Probiotic						
	Hyperbaric oxygen

Fully reimbursed Not registered Out of pocket
Off- label Not routine

Table 2.

Medications and interventions		SRB	MNE	HRV	MKD	BIH	SVN
	Transdermal fentanyl						
	KGF-1						
	Zn supplements						
	Benzidamine						
	0.2% morphine mouthwash						
	0.5% doxepine mouthwash						
	Laser						
	Oral cryotherapy						
	Morphine PCA						
	Oral care protocols						

Gastrointestinal mucositis (Table 1.):

- 2/5 medications are not available throughout the region, 3/5 are not accessible due to their off-label use(2/5) or because of the lack of reimbursment (1/5)
- Of special interest is the unaccess to octreotide needed for the treatment of potentially life threatening diarrhea.

Oral mucositis (Table 2.):

- 3/4 interventions can't be implemented, 4/6 medications are not available
- Opiods are widely accessible for transdermal use and as an oral solution.

Conclusions

- There is no significant disparity in the availability and access to medications/interventions between countries of former Yugoslavia
- Barriers in the availability and access to interventions and medications recommended by the guidelines preclude physicians in providing optimal care for patients with mucositis after cancer treatment in the region of former Yugoslavia.

References

1. Peterson DE, Boers-Doets CB, Bensadoun RJ, Herrstedt J. Management of Oral and Gastrointestinal Mucosal Injury: ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines. Ann Oncol (2015) 26 (suppl 5): v139-v151.