Lessons Learned From the Dedicated Oncology Drug Review Process in Canada: 2013 Update

Grima DT1, Samjoo IA1
1 Cornerstone Research Group Inc., Burlington, ON, Canada

ABSTRACT

Background: The pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review (pCODR) was established to provide provinces/territories with recommendations on reimbursement for cancer drugs. We analyzed these recommendations to identify trends.

Methods: Recommendations publicly accessible at www.pcodr.ca were reviewed since pCODRs operation: 13 July 2011 - 17 May 2013.

Results: Of the eleven positive recommendations, two suggested a more limited patient population than the one requested (Inlyta and Votrient). In eight cases (Afinitor – two indications, Halaven, Jakavi, Sutent, Treanda, Yervoy, Zelboraf), positive recommendations for the requested population were made conditional on improvement of cost-effectiveness ratios. Treanda received a positive recommendation for the requested population without conditions. Velcade received a positive recommendation for only one of the requested populations. Xalkori received a positive recommendation limited to second-line therapy and conditional on improved cost-effectiveness. Three negative recommendations were made due to: a) limitations in evidence from open-label, phase two trials (Xalkori); b) modest progression-free survival, lack of statistically significant overall survival, lack of quality of life data and poor cost-effectiveness (Votrient), and; c) unclear clinical benefit and an unacceptable cost-effectiveness model (Treanda). Many economic reviews included re-analyses (e.g., limiting product benefit post-progression, time horizon reductions, or changes to post-progression mortality risk) which had substantial impact on cost-effectiveness.

Conclusions: The positive conditional pCODR recommendations clearly support a continued provincial product listing agreement structure that includes rebates to lower cost-effectiveness. The economic re-analyses may raise doubts as to the value of the products which could weaken the negotiation position of manufacturers for subsequent provincial price listing agreements.