

## The 2011 International Society of Geriatric Oncology Meeting

Highlights of the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) meeting, November 4-5, 2011, Paris, France)

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**SIOG, the international organisation of geriatric oncology, organised its annual congress this year in Paris. Over 300 health care workers from all over the world participated in this meeting.** (*Belg J Med Oncol* 2012;6:37)

### Introduction

Several sessions were dedicated to geriatric assessment. Recent studies have clearly shown that geriatric assessment has important prognostic value. Moreover, two recent studies from Extermann and Hurria showed that components from the geriatric assessment have clear predictive capacity for the development of toxicity when receiving chemotherapy. Information on practical issues about geriatric assessment are available at the SIOG website ([www.siog.org](http://www.siog.org) under the section geriatric assessment). Several Belgian studies on geriatric assessment (funded by the National cancerplan and the Vlaamse Liga tegen Kanker) were presented, two of them being oral presentations. Abstract O1 (Kenis et al) showed that a Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGA) in cancer pts  $\geq 70$  yrs of age at specific milestones (diagnosis, disease progression), reveals previously unknown geriatric problems in 51.4% of pts. A large number of physicians (42%) was not aware of the results of the geriatric assessment at time of treatment decision. Despite this, the geriatric assessment leads to a geriatric intervention in 20% and influenced treatment decision in 15.5 % of patients. Abstract O4 (Pottel et al) validated G8 and VES-13 as geriatric screening tools, with G8 being slightly more performant, and

the combination of both being the most performant.

### Cancer biology and ageing

There was also a session on biology of cancer and ageing: a domain currently in full development. Chronological age is considered to be a very bad measure of the real biological age (and tolerance capacity) of older persons. Several groups are looking at potential ageing biomarkers, such as telomere length, p16 expression in lymphocytes, immunosenescence, metabolomics (abstract O2) and others that could predict prognosis and treatment tolerance.

Several sessions dealt with a state of the art overview on specific tumor types. SIOG guidelines for these different tumour types can also be consulted on the SIOG website ([www.siog.org](http://www.siog.org)).

### Conclusion

One of the main goals of the SIOG meeting is to generate a worldwide platform with the ultimate aim of improving care for older cancer patients. All interested physicians or health care workers are very welcome at the next SIOG meeting, to be hosted in Manchester on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2012.

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**Conflict of interest:** the authors have nothing to disclose and indicate no potential conflicts of interest.

**Key words:** Geriatric oncology, ageing, guidelines.