



## SUPPORTIVE CARE FOR ELDERLY CANCER PATIENTS at the ISTITUTO NAZIONALE dei TUMORI, MILANO

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### INTRODUCTION

A dedicated Supportive Care in Cancer Unit (SCCU) was born on June 2009 at Istituto Nazionale Tumori di Milano (INT) and since July 21st 2016 a geriatrician has been working with the aim of integrating expertise in elderly care in the team with oncologists, internal medicine specialist, RN, health technicians, volunteers.

### AIM OF THE STUDY

To estimate retrospectively the prevalence of elderly patients (age  $\geq 65$ ) at SCCU and to identify the most frequent medical therapies required.

### METHODS

Data was obtained from the administrative registries of the Management Control Department, from the Immunohematology and Transfusion Medicine Service of the INT in the period from July 21st, 2016 to January 21st, 2017.

### RESULTS

During the six months examined, 809 patients were taken in charge at our SCCU: 421 patients (52%) were older than 65. While 60.7% of the blood component units were transfused to elderly patients, infusions (fluids and drugs) were prescribed more frequently in younger patients (55.2 % of total).

The administration of anti-osteoporotic drugs was more prevalent in patients older than 65 (62.2% Vs 37.8%;). Zoledronate was prescribed more frequently than Denosumab in elders (63% Vs 37%).

### CONCLUSIONS

If the aim of supportive care is to ease the patient's burden throughout their cancer journey and "make excellent cancer care possible", this is particularly true for older who often are at high risk of toxicity and treatment discontinuation due to adverse events and complications. Therefore supportive care interventions can be strategically integrated by a geriatric expertise in order to provide a personalized treatment plan for elderly patients.