

## Introduction

Systematic identification of needs and symptoms by patients themselves at the time of cancer diagnosis shall enable a personalized and prompt response by the supportive care team<sup>1,2</sup>. All of the above could be facilitated by integrating digital evaluation tools. The aim was to evaluate the effectiveness of a digital auto-questionnaire as a means of orientation in supportive care

## Methods

All new patients from 5 oncology departments ( ENT, pulmonology, neurology, endocrinology , digestive tumors) received a digital auto-evaluation questionnaire (auto-QCM) in their portal, named “In order to know you better” (Image 1) , conceived by the supportive care department team, approved by the patient committee and developed along with an informatics team. The questionnaire covers numerous domains such as mobility and everyday autonomy, dietary habits, addictions etc. Each item is correlated to a score which is automatically calculated. If a pre-defined threshold is exceeded, the auto-questionnaire alerts for vulnerability to one or more domains, allowing the Evaluation Unit team to accordingly orientate patients either towards a specialist consultation or in the Evaluation Day Unit (EDU) for a multidisciplinary approach (Image 2) .

Image 1 : Auto-QCM (First page)

Domain of supportive care need	Number of patients	% of responders
Nutrition	356	49%
Psychology	321	44%
Pain management	239	33%
Addictology	250	34%
Comorbidities	232	32%
Physiotherapy	50	7%
Social assistance	46	6%
Pharmacist	28	4%

Table 1 : Supportive care needs as per domain

## Results

On a total of 2424 new patients, 69% (n = 1664) received the auto-QCM, and of them 60% (n=963) filled it in. Two vulnerabilities were detected for the majority of patients (Group A , n = 39%) , one vulnerability for 31% ( Group B) and none for 30% of patients (Group C). All patients on group A were appointed in the EDU and 60% finally consulted .The vast majority were in need for nutrition , psychology , pain management , addictology intervention and to a lesser extent , physiotherapy. (Table 1). The aforementioned interventions where combined differently for each patient (Table 2) .

Combined needs	Nb of patients	% of responders
Nutrition/ Psychology	77	20%
Psychology / Pain management ± Addictology	50	13%
Nutrition Pain management ± Addictology	47	12%
Nutrition/ Psychology / Pain management	40	11%
Nutrition / Psychology / Addictology	31	8%
Nutrition / Addictology	30	8%
Nutrition/ Psychology / Pain management / Addictology	30	8%
Psychology / Addictology	21	6%
Various interventions	20	5%
Pain management/Addictology	18	5%
False alert	13	3%

Table 2 : Profiles of combined supportive care needs of patients appointed in the Evaluation Day Unit

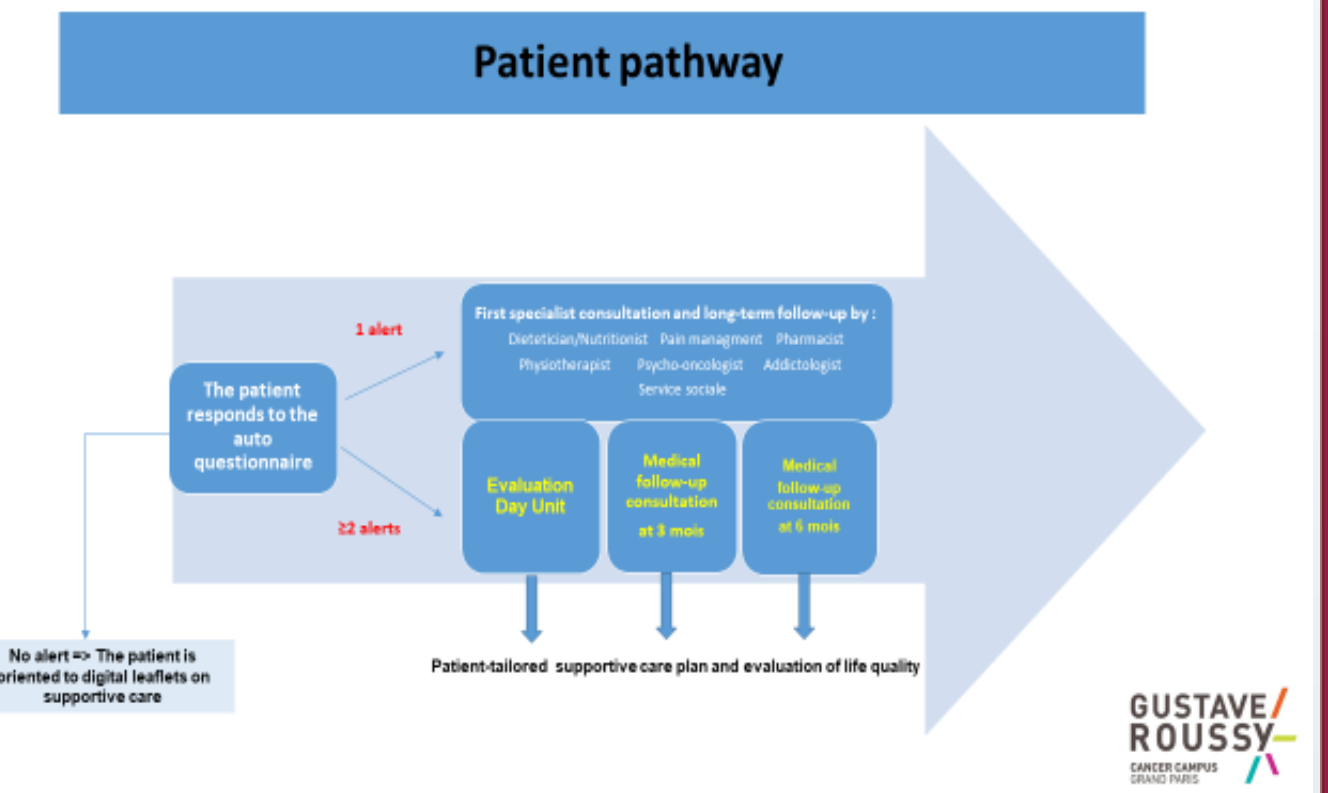


Image 2 : The patient pathway as organized through the digital evaluation tool

## Discussion

Applying a digital auto evaluation tool enables more rapid and personalized orientation. However , not all patients are familiar with the use of digital tools neither have access to a computer , tablet or mobile phone. Very often , these patients are the most vulnerable ones. The next steps of the team focus on facilitating patients' access to the digital tool, by providing in-person assistance , tablets in the consultation waiting rooms and by re-enforcing hospital-community liaisons, in order to provide appropriate care to the largest population of patients possible.

## References

- Lu Z., Fang Y., Liu C., Zhang X., Xin X., et al. *Early Interdisciplinary Supportive Care in Patients with Previously Untreated Metastatic Esophagogastric Cancer: A Phase III Randomized Controlled Trial.* J. Clin. Oncol. 2021;39:748–756. doi: 10.1200/JCO.20.01254.
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