



Oncologists' Perspectives on Access to Cancer Therapies in Bulgaria

Introduction

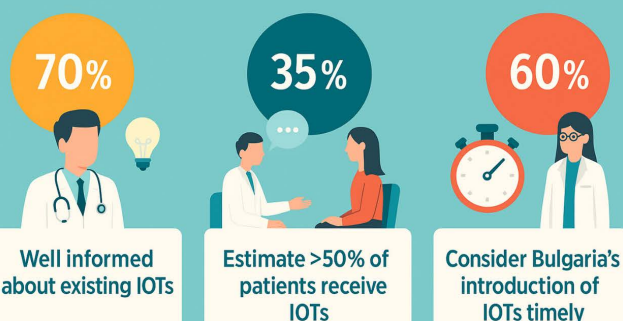
Since late 2015, Ministerial Order N9 has mandated new medicines to be subject to health technology assessment (HTA) for the Positive Drug List (PDL), which leads to National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) reimbursement. This framework was strengthened in April 2019 when the Medicinal Products in Human Medicine Act added HTA procedures. This study examined Bulgarian oncologists' views on how HTA processes affect patient access to innovative oncology therapies (IOTs).

Methods

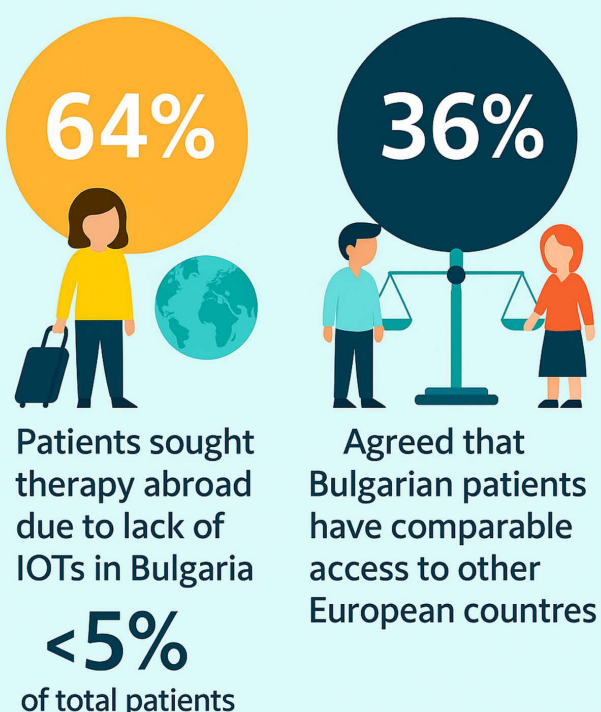
- A cross-sectional online questionnaire surveyed Bulgarian oncologists
- HTA protocols, clinical trial participation, and IOTs access were covered
- The survey was distributed from March to May 2025 in five rounds to optimize reach and response

Results

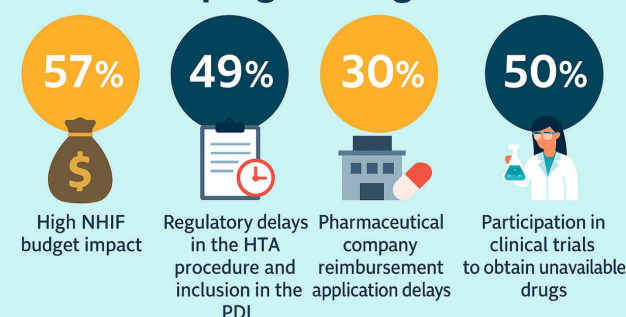
RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS



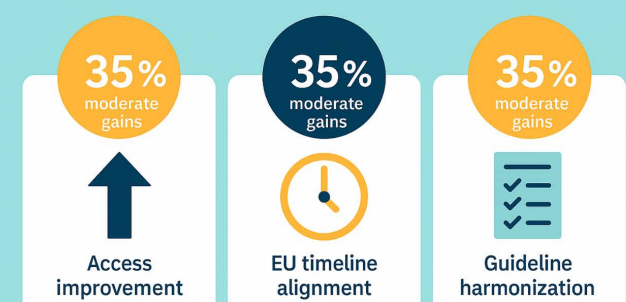
Patients' Access to IOTs



Reported Access Barriers and Coping Strategies



Expected JCA Impact



Conclusion

Bulgaria has institutionalized HTA to control funded novel treatments, but implementation issues were reported. Transparent HTA procedures, clearer clinical guideline updates, and greater training may assist implement IOTs. Awareness of JCA programs may help align national decisions with European access needs.