



# Real-World Application and Perceived Effectiveness of Innovative Oncological Medicinal Therapies (IOMTs):

## A Cross-Sectional Survey of Oncology Specialists

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### BACKGROUND

- Innovative oncological medicinal therapies (IOMTs) have expanded treatment options across multiple cancer types.
- Evidence on their real-world application and perceived effectiveness remains limited.
- This study aimed to assess the extent of IOMT use in routine practice and oncologists' perceptions of their effectiveness compared with conventional therapies, based exclusively on specialist opinion.

### OBJECTIVE

To assess real-world use and perceived effectiveness of IOMTs among Bulgarian oncologists.

### METHODS

**Design:** Cross-sectional survey

**Participants:** 115 practicing Bulgarian oncologists

**Data collected:**

- Proportion of patients receiving IOMTs
- Key factors influencing treatment selection

Perceived therapeutic effectiveness assessed across 3 domains:

- Time-to-event outcomes (e.g., OS, PFS)
- Response-to-therapy outcomes (e.g., ORR, disease control)
- Patient-reported outcomes (PROs) (e.g., QoL, symptom reduction)

Comparative assessments between IOMTs and older therapies were captured using predefined categorical response scales.

### RESULTS

#### 1 USE OF IOMTs IN ROUTINE PRACTICE

Proportion of patients in oncologists' practice receiving IOMTs

More than one third of oncologists report that over 50% of their patients receive IOMTs.

#### 2 KEY FACTORS INFLUENCING TREATMENT SELECTION

% of oncologists selecting factor as important (multiple responses)

Therapeutic effectiveness	90.7% (n=98)
Adverse effects	57.4% (n=62)
Drug availability	51.9% (n=56)
Prior clinical experience	51.9% (n=56)
Cost / Budget impact	51.6% (n=36)
Guidelines / Recommendations	31.6% (n=28)
Patient preference	12.0% (n=14)
Other	3.7% (n=4)

Therapeutic effectiveness is the most important driver of treatment selection.

### 3 PERCEIVED THERAPEUTIC EFFECTIVENESS OF IOMTs VS. CONVENTIONAL THERAPIES

% of oncologists who perceive IOMTs as providing better outcomes (much better / somewhat better)

#### TIME-TO-EVENT OUTCOMES

Overall survival (OS)	74.6% (n=85)
Progression-free survival (PFS)	74.6% (n=85)
Event-free survival (EFS)	66.7% (n=76)
Disease-free survival (DFS)	60.5% (n=69)

20-35% of respondents selected "cannot answer" across outcome domains.

#### RESPONSE-TO-THERAPY OUTCOMES

Objective response rate (ORR)	78.1% (n=89)
Disease control rate (DCR)	78.1% (n=89)
Minimal residual disease (MRD)	55.3% (n=63)
Recurrence rates	50.9% (n=58)

20-35% of respondents selected "cannot answer" across outcome domains.

#### PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOMES (PROs)

Quality of life (QoL)	71.1% (n=81)
Symptom reduction	64.9% (n=74)
Functional improvement	64.0% (n=73)
Treatment satisfaction	50.0% (n=57)

20-35% of respondents selected "cannot answer" across outcome domains.

### 4 COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENTS BETWEEN IOMTs AND OLDER THERAPIES

Oncologists compared IOMTs with conventional therapies across the three effectiveness domains using predefined categorical response scales.

MUCH BETTER IOMTs are much better than older therapies	BETTER IOMTs are better than older therapies	SIMILAR IOMTs are similar to older therapies	WORSE IOMTs are worse than older therapies	MUCH WORSE IOMTs are much worse than older therapies
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► Across outcome domains, the majority of responses indicated that IOMTs are "better" or "much better" than conventional therapies.

### CONCLUSIONS

IOMTs are widely used in real-world oncology practice, with >60% of oncologists treating at least 30% of their patients with IOMTs.

Oncologists consistently perceive IOMTs as more effective than conventional therapies across time-to-event, response-to-therapy, and patient-reported outcomes.

Therapeutic effectiveness is the primary driver of treatment selection, followed by safety, availability, and clinical experience.

### KEY MESSAGE

Real-world expert opinion strongly supports the clinical value of IOMTs across survival, response, and patient-centered outcomes.