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(PRESTO) Physician Reasons for Subcutaneous Anti-HER2 Opt-In: Factors Associated with Physicians' Preference in Using Subcutaneous Formulation of Anti-HER2 Treatment in Persons with Breast Cancer

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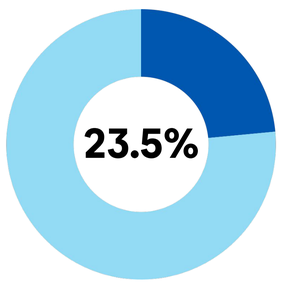
Introduction

- Breast cancer is the 2nd most common malignancy and remains a leading cause of cancer-related mortality in women worldwide.[1]



of Filipino cases are human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)-positive.

This is an aggressive subtype of cancer associated with poorer survival outcomes.[2,3]

- While HER2-targeted therapies have significantly improved survival, subcutaneous (SC) formulations were developed to enhance convenience and healthcare efficiency over traditional intravenous (IV) administration.[4]
- However, local data on physician preference and the operational impact of SC therapy remain limited.

Objectives & Methods

Factors Associated with Physicians' Preferences for SC vs IV Anti-HER2 Treatment

- Identify demographic profile
- Compare drug costs
- Compare time-associated costs
- Identify factors associated with preference

Study Design:

A cross-sectional survey among Filipino oncologists from all levels of their career was performed. Data was collected from December 2025 to January 2026.

Sampling:

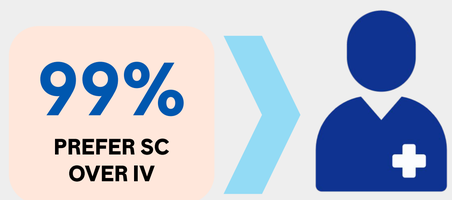
Respondents were recruited through emails channeled through the Philippine Society of Medical Oncology (PSMO) Secretariat. Consent and responses were obtained via Qualtrics. Purposive sampling during specialty conferences or gatherings was done.

Development:

Questionnaire was patterned from literature review and validated for homogeneity and internal consistency.

Results

- A total of 402 oncologists participated (82% response rate).



Filipino medical oncologists (MO) have almost universal preference of SC over IV therapy.

PSMO Physician Profile
Age: **36-45 years old**
PSMO Membership: **Fellows (77%)**
Years of Practice (median): **12 years**
Area of Practice: **Luzon* (82%)**

*Luzon is one of the three main island groups of the Philippines.

- Direct drug acquisition costs were comparable, with SC regimens slightly less expensive.

Table 1. Drug and related administration cost of anti-HER2 regimen and its SC and IV formulations[5]

Anti-HER2 Regimen	SC Formulation (PHP)	IV Formulation (PHP)	Difference
Trastuzumab*	51,916.80	52,050.48	-0.26%
Trastuzumab* + Pertuzumab*	171,773.00	176,406.82	-2.63%
Medical Consumables	75.00^	4,600.00[6]	-98.4%

Innovator Brand, ^Based on January 2026 suggested retail price, PHP: Philippine peso

- Preference for SC appears to be driven primarily by care-delivery efficiency and patient-centered convenience, rather than by efficacy concerns.

		SC	IV
1	51% TIME SAVINGS — *SC administration significantly reduced treatment administration and healthcare professional time.*	61.06 ± 16.70 *(Total administration time, mins)* 37.59 ± 10.58 *(Total MO time, mins)*	144.48 ± 27.04 *(Total administration time, mins)* 72.55 ± 20.88 *(Total MO time, mins)*
2	29% FREEING UP CAPACITY FOR IV INFUSION — *Time savings allow SC formulations 3.5x more patient to be seen and treated per day than IV.*	~42 Patients *(Seen & Treated Per Day)*	~12 Patients *(Seen & Treated Per Day)*
3	27% PATIENT CONVENIENCE — *SC reduces time in the clinic: allows patients to return to their daily lives and continue being a productive member of society.*	42.2% *(Patients preferred SC mainly to spend less time in the clinic)[7]*	4.8% *(Patients preferred IV mainly to spend less time in the clinic)[7]*
4	30% LESS PATIENT ANXIETY — *SC replaces the traditional system IV infusion along with the stress in venous access and associated anxiety.*	Reduction of Patient Anxiety *is one of the reported reasons on patient preference for SC in PrefHer study[8]*	Port-A Catheter Issues & Venous Access Difficulty *is a reported concern from both patients and healthcare professionals[9]*
5	42% PATIENT WEIGHT — *Fixed-dose SC formulations may lead to economic savings to patients compared to weight-based IV dosing.*	1 Fixed-Dose Vial *(For Patients ≤ 50 kg and > 50 kg)*	2 Vials *(For Patients ≤ 50 kg)* 3 Vials *(For Patients > 50 kg)*

Other factors included: Ease of Administration, Less Pain / Discomfort for Patient, Prevents Dosing Errors, Prevents Wastage, Greater Flexibility in Making Appointments, Compensates for Lack of Staff

Conclusions

- SC anti-HER2 therapy is strongly preferred by Filipino medical oncologists and offers significant workflow advantages, including reduced treatment time and improved care capacity. Wider adoption may enhance oncology service efficiency while maintaining comparable treatment costs.

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