

# Drivers Of Treatment Decisions In Multiple Myeloma Front-Line Transplant-Eligible Patients In A Real-World Setting: A Qualitative Assessment Of Physicians’ Perspectives In Europe

Zamagni E<sup>1</sup>, Ottosson A<sup>2</sup>, Gungor G<sup>3</sup>, Dergarabetian E<sup>4</sup>, Leclerc M<sup>5</sup>, Graziani-Taugeran C<sup>5</sup>, Rodriguez-Otero P<sup>6</sup>

1. IRCCS Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria di Bologna. Istituto di Ematologia “Seràgnoli; 2. Janssen-Cilag AB, Sweden; 3. Janssen, Turkey; 4.Janssen-Cilag Limited, United Kingdom; 5. Cerner Enviza, France; 6. Department of Hematology. Clínica Universidad de Navarra, Spain

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## Background

- Multiple myeloma (MM), the second most common hematologic malignancy, has an annual estimated incidence of 4.5-6.0 cases per 100,000 people in Europe.<sup>1</sup>
- Changes in the MM diagnostic criteria and staging system and emerging data from randomized clinical trials influence treatment decisions and transplantation eligibility assessment.<sup>2-4</sup>
- While the use of maintenance therapy has continuously increased, its optimal duration remains controversial.<sup>5</sup>
- Existing data on physicians' treatment preferences are mainly from clinical trials and systematic reviews and may differ from real-world setting.<sup>6</sup>

## Objectives

- Identify key treatment decision drivers for front-line transplant-eligible (FLTE) MM patients from their managing physician's perspective
- Provide specific insights into current opinion and practices of maintenance therapy in the real-world setting

## Methods

- Forty MM managing hematologists and oncologists from France, Italy, Spain, and Germany participated in a 60 min telephonic, qualitative in-depth interview (Table 1).
- Participants were asked to elaborate on patient caseload and the standard of care for MM FLTE patients, rationale for treatment decisions, and stepwise approach from induction to maintenance therapy.
- The transcripts were coded with the NVivo software for emergent themes and patterns based on the descriptions from the participants.
- Categories of analysis were identified with codes and relevant sub-codes that revealed suitable themes and ideas for thematic analysis.

Participant characteristics, n		40
Country, n (%)		
Germany		10 (25)
Italy		10 (25)
France		10 (25)
Spain		10 (25)
Specialty, n (%)		
Hematologists		28 (70)
Onco-hematologists		12 (30)
Practice setting, n (%)		
General hospital		17 (43)
University/teaching hospital		16 (40)
Office based		5 (13)
Cancer center		2 (5)

Table 1: Participant characteristics

## Results

