

## PROFILE OF THE USE OF ORAL ANTINEOPLASTIC THERAPY IN AN OUTPATIENT PHARMACY

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### Introduction

The increasing incidence of cancer worldwide is a serious public health problem. Cancer is characterized by the uncontrolled growth of transformed cells capable of spreading between tissues and organs close to the affected structure and encompasses a set of more than one hundred types of diseases that affect the entire body structure. Oral antineoplastics are among the cancer treatment modalities, despite being an advantageous treatment in terms of ease of administration and the lack of need for intravenous access, the patient is primarily responsible for their treatment, with the pharmacist and pharmacy attendants the last barrier to avoid errors in the dispensing stage that cause medication errors. To carry out strategies aimed at minimizing medication errors, it is necessary to know the reality, organizations and profile of the unit dispensing oral antineoplastics.

### Material and Methods

This is a retrospective and descriptive study carried out from January to June 2022, with patients using oral antineoplastics (chemotherapeutics, hormone therapy and specific drugs for cancer treatment) treated at the outpatient pharmacy of Hospital Federal Cardoso Fontes. The consumption of oral antineoplastics was recorded through the E-SUS system, using the “Consumption List” report, while the collection of data on the profile of patients undergoing oral antineoplastic therapy was evaluated through the electronic medical records of the E-SUS system.

The project was submitted for evaluation by the Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Medicine of the Universidade Federal Fluminense before the start of the study, and approved according to an report 5.998.654 (CAAE: 66534122.0.0000.5243) e pelo Research Ethics Committee of the Hospital Federal Cardoso Fontes, approved according report 6.042.050 (CAAE: 66534122.0.3001.8066).

### Results and Discussion

A total of 634 patients using oral antineoplastics at the outpatient pharmacy were assessed. With regard to gender, 452 (71.3%) patients were female. The age of the patients ranged from 26-98 years, with a median age of 65.75 years. The most prevalent diagnoses were breast cancer (62.3%), prostate cancer (21.5%) and colon cancer (5.7%). The most dispensed drugs in the period studied were Anastrozole (35.6%), Tamoxifen (18.9%), Capecitabine (12.6%), Abiraterone (11.7%), Bicalutamide (8.2%) and Exemestane (5.0%). The consumption of oral antineoplastics dispensed in the month is shown in Table 1.

Oral antineoplastics	January	February	March	April	May	June
Abiraterone	60	16	63	54	52	64
Anastrozole	185	187	190	194	193	187
Bicalutamide	24	23	25	30	18	22
Capecitabine	34	30	34	38	40	28
Cyclophosphamide	4	3	3	3	2	2
Cyproterone	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dasatinib	1	1	1	1	1	1
Everolimus	1	1	1	1	1	1
Exemestane	23	25	28	27	28	24
Enzalutamide	3	3	4	1	8	5
Gefitinib	1	1	1	1	1	1
Imatinib	19	19	21	18	22	23
Lapatinib	1	1	2	2	1	2
Sunitinib	5	2	6	4	3	6
Tamoxifen	90	88	96	89	99	93

**Table 1** - Consumption of oral antineoplastics  
Source: Author (2023).

## Conclusion

This paper made it possible to characterize the clinical profile and the use of oral antineoplastics of the patients assisted in the outpatient pharmacy of a hospital, and is relevant for better planning in order to promote an improvement in the quality of the dispensing of oral antineoplastics in order to provide better care for the users who use this service.

## Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank the Ministry of Health for the fellowship.

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