Patient healthcare trajectories of intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma in France: A nationwide retrospective analysis

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Summary

Background Little is known about the epidemiology and patterns of care of intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma (iCCA) in daily clinical practice. The aims of this study were to estimate the number of declared cases during the study period 2014–2015 in France from a hospitalization database and to describe the healthcare trajectories of these patients.

Methods A retrospective analysis was carried out using the French nationwide prospective hospitalization database. All pts with a new diagnosis of "carcinoma of the intrahepatic bile duct" who had a first hospital stay in the Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics departments (MSO) between 2014 and 2015 with a 2-year follow-up were included. Data related to the first identified stay (SI) in the MSO and on all subsequent stays in the MSO, aftercare and rehabilitation or home hospitalization were analysed.

Findings A total of 3650 new iCCA cases were identified. At S1 (admission via emergency room (ER) in 28%), the median age of the patients was 73 years, 57% were male and 35% had metastases. Jaundice/anaemia/ascites/cholangitis were reported in 17%/16%/12%/7% of patients, respectively. The care of patients at S1 was mainly provided in general hospitals (CHG, 60%). A total of 896 (24%) patients died during S1. They were more frequently hospitalized via the ER (48% vs 23%), metastatic (52% vs 35%) and symptomatic. Subsequent stays were identified for 2507 (69%) patients. Three healthcare pathways were defined: surgery (n = 519; 14%), chemotherapy (CT) without surgery (n = 812; 22%) and best supportive care (BSC) (n = 2319; 63%). CT, surgery and BSC were most frequently performed in the cancer centres, university hospitals and CHG, respectively.

Interpretation This medico administrative study reveals a higher number of iCCA cases than that previously reported by registries and highlights the severity of this disease.

Funding This study was sponsored by Incyte Biosciences International Sarl., Geneva, Switzerland. INCYTE validated the design of the study, the analysis, the interpretation of data and the writing of the manuscript which was first written by the 2 experts and CEMKA.

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Introduction

Biliary tract cancers (BTCs) are a heterogeneous group of epithelial neoplasms (adenocarcinoma in 90% of cases). They are considered rare tumours, with less than six new cases per 100,000 people each year

(10,000 and 12,000 new cases/year in Europe and the United States, respectively). They are classified into three main subtypes based on their anatomical origin, with specific epidemiological, clinical, molecular, and therapeutic features: intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma (iCCA), extrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma (eCCA, including hilar cholangiocarcinoma), and gallbladder carcinoma. Overall, BTCs display a poor prognosis,

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Research in context panel

Evidence before this study

The incidence of biliary tract cancers was reported as low, with approximately 2000 per year in France, all primary sites taken together, according to registries. Data specific to intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma were scarce. Findings from other industrialized countries (SEER database in the US) suggested increased incidence of intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma but no real-life data were available about the oncological care pathways of these patients.

Added value of this study

We analyzed national data from the exhaustive PMSI system, recording all day hospital and conventional hospital stays in France. We described a higher incidence for intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma than previously estimated in registries, highlighting the severity of the disease with 25% of patients dying at first hospital stay and 60% of patients receiving no active treatment. We also highlighted the central role of small centres and community hospitals in the management of these patients.

Implications of all the available evidence

Our results have implications for the discussions about the optimization of the oncological care pathways for patients with intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma. Treatments for biliary tract cancers are evolving fast, with notably the approval of targeted therapies requiring access to molecular screening for these patients. Particularly, the decentralized organisation for treatment of these patients is challenging and there is a need to increase the awareness about treatment options for biliary tract cancers. In addition, regional discussions should be launched to implement networks between centres to ensure access to active treatments and molecular screening.

with a five-year overall survival (OS) rate for all stages taken together of less than 20%. CAs develop within the liver parenchyma and represent the second most frequent primary liver malignancy after hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). The incidence of iCCA is increasing worldwide, particularly in Europe and North America. Risk factors include cirrhosis, nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), obesity and diabetes mellitus, chronic hepatitis B or C infection, *Opisthorchis* and *Clonorchis* infections in Asia, Lynch syndrome, primary sclerosing cholangitis, and intrahepatic lithiasis. The diagnosis of iCCA can be challenging, and the main differential diagnoses include liver metastases from other carcinomas or HCC, especially in cirrhotic patients.

The reference therapy for localized iCCA (20–30%) is surgical resection, which should be considered whenever possible, within a multidisciplinary team experienced in hepatobiliary surgery. Surgery is followed by six months of adjuvant chemotherapy (CT) with capecitabine, based on the results of the BILCAP phase III study, with a 15-month OS benefit over observation, as per the results of the intention-to-treat analysis (non-significant but clinically relevant) and the adjusted and perprotocol pre-specified sensitivity analyses (statistically significant). ⁷

The vast majority (70-80%) of iCCAs are diagnosed at an advanced, nonresectable stage, and their management relies on best supportive care (BSC, including biliary drainage in case of jaundice) and CT if the patient's general condition allows. 6 Standard first-line (LI) CT is gemcitabine plus cisplatin (CISGEM), which shows superiority over gemcitabine alone with regard to OS in the ABC-02 randomized phase III study.8 In the second-line (L2) setting, the 5-fluorouracil/folinic acid plus oxaliplatin (FOLFOX) doublet recently demonstrated superiority over BSC alone in the ABC-o6 phase III study,9 but the question of the best L2 regimen is still open.10 Finally, patients with iCCA with liver-predominant disease (50% of cases) can also be treated with locoregional therapies, including liver intra-arterial CT, selective internal radiation therapy, chemoembolization, and radiotherapy.6

In recent years, knowledge about the molecular heterogeneity of iCCA has considerably increased with the advent of large-scale genomic and transcriptomic analyses, opening new perspectives for so-called personalized targeted therapies. Among the ongoing therapeutic developments, targeting fibroblast growth factor receptor (FGFR) and isocitrate dehydrogenase (IDH) alterations, as well as "agnostic" neurotrophic tyrosine receptor kinase (*NTRK*) gene fusion and microsatellite instability (MSI), are the most advanced candidates and hold much promise for the future. ¹³

Little is known about the epidemiology of iCCA and the care pathways of patients with iCCA in daily clinical practice. The aims of this study were to estimate the number of declared cases during the study period 2014 –2015 in France from a hospitalization database and to describe the healthcare trajectories of these patients.

Methods

Data source

A retrospective analysis was carried out using the nationwide hospitalization database (*Programme de Médicalisation des Systèmes d'Information* (PMSI)).

The PMSI is a comprehensive and exhaustive database recording all hospitalizations in France (approximately 25 million in 2012) in both public and private care facilities. ¹⁴ All stays are chainable for a given

patient with a unique identification number of anonymizations since I January 2006. This database provides detailed clinical information, such as the main diagnosis, comorbidities and main procedures performed (e.g., surgery and imaging): (i) patient characteristics (age and gender); (ii) diagnoses (main and secondary), coded according to the World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision (WHO-ICD-10); (iii) the disease-related group (DRG), a classification system summarizing medical and surgical interventions; (iv) duration of hospital stay in days; (v) medical procedures performed during the stay; (vi) origin of the patient before admission (home, same hospital or other hospital); (vii) discharge destination (home or another hospital); (vii) vital status of patient (alive or dead); and (viii) type of care facility (public hospitals, including university hospitals, or private clinics).

Three subdatabases of the PMSI were used for this study:

- The Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics (MSO) database records acute hospitalization stays.
- The *Soins de Suite et de Réhabilitation* (SSR) database records post-acute care and rehabilitation hospitalization stays.
- The *Hospitalisation à domicile* (HAD) database records at-home hospitalizations.

Study design

The diagnosis of iCCA was based on the WHO-ICD-10 code C221 (intrahepatic bile duct carcinoma). All patients who had a first hospital stay (S1) in the MSO between 2014 and 2015 with this diagnosis as a main diagnosis were included. The date of S1 was referred to as the "index date". Data related to the S1 in the MSO and on all subsequent stays in the MSO, SSR or HAD were included.

Patients who had the WHO-ICD-10 code C221 as a main or secondary diagnosis during a hospital stay over the 12 previous months were excluded. Patients who were hospitalized (MSO, SSR or HAD) between 2014 and 2017 with the following codes were also excluded: C18 (malignant neoplasm of the colon), C21 (malignant neoplasms of the anus and anal canal), C220 (malignant neoplasm of the rectum), C227 (other specified carcinomas of the liver), C23 (malignant neoplasm of the gallbladder), C24 (malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified parts of the biliary tract, except C249), and C25 (malignant neoplasm of the pancreas). In addition, if a patient had a cholecystectomy procedure during S1 coded C221, he/she was excluded from the analysis. The selection of these codes and exclusion criteria were discussed and validated with experts (CN and AL).

The population was analysed as a historical cohort followed-up for 24 months from the index date. The database was censored on 31 December 2017.

Statistical analyses

The statistical management and analysis of the data were carried out using SAS® V9.4 software (North Carolina, USA).

Continuous variables were described for the overall population using the following descriptive statistics: number of patients, number of missing values, mean, standard deviation, median, minimum, and maximum. Categorical variables were described as follows: number of patients, number of missing values and percentage of each modality, which were calculated on the answers expressed.

Bivariate statistical analyses were performed with different statistical tests based on the nature of the variables. For categorical variables, the chi-squared test was applied, except for theoretical sample sizes less than 5; in this case, the Yates continuity correction or Fisher exact test was used. For quantitative variables, when the distribution was close to normal (nonsignificant Shapiro-Wilk test), Student's *t*-test or analysis of variance was performed. Otherwise, nonparametric tests were used (Wilcoxon and Kruskal-Wallis).

As the PMSI database covered the whole country of France, the number of patients identified with a diagnosis of ICCA was exhaustive and estimating a sample size was therefore not relevant in this type of analysis.

Regulatory declaration

This study complied with MRoo6 (Méthodologie de Référence) and was declared on the National Institute of Health Data (INDS: Institut National des données de santé) site.

Role of the funding source

INCYTE validated the design of the study, the analysis, the interpretation of data and the writing of the manuscript which was first written by the 2 experts and CEMKA.

Results

Estimated number of new iCCA declared cases in the database and patient characteristics at S1

A total of 3650 new iCCA cases declared in the database were identified in 2014–2015 (1825 patients/year) (Figure 1). Patient characteristics at S1 are displayed in Table 1. The median age of the patients was 73 years (range: 23–101 years), with $60\cdot2\%$ of patients aged \geq 70 years and 57·0% male. More than one-third (35·3%) of patients had metastases at diagnosis. The main metastatic sites were the liver (18·8%), followed by the peritoneum (10·7%) and lungs (8·9%). Jaundice, cholangitis, anaemia, and ascites were reported in 17·5%, 7·5%, $16\cdot3\%$, and $12\cdot2\%$ of patients, respectively.

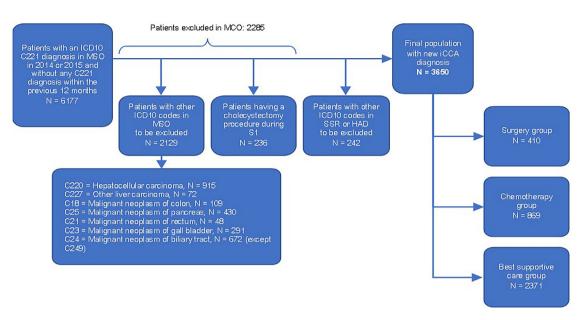


Figure. 1. Flowchart of patients.

	OverallN (%)	Surgery group N (%)	Chemotherapy group N (%)	Best supportive care group N (%)
Global population with iCCA	3 650 (100)	410 (11-2%)	869 (23.8)	2 371 (65·0%)
Gender				
Male	2 082 (57.0)	257 (62.7%)	513 (59·0)	1 312 (55-3)
Female	1 568 (43.0)	153 (37-3%)	356 (41.0)	1 059 (44-7)
Age (years)				
Mean	72.0	66.0	66-8	74.9
Median [Min / Max]	73.0 / 23.0 / 101.0	67.0 / 23.0 / 95.0	68.0 / 27.0 / 92.0	77.0 / 23.0 / 101.0
Age in classes				
< 50 years	35 (6.7)	50 (6.2)	73 (3-1)	158 (4.3)
50-69 years	265 (51-1)	414 (51-0)	614 (26·5)	1293 (35-4)
70-79 years	168 (32-4)	259 (31-9)	642 (27-7)	1069 (29-3)
≥ 80 years	51 (9.8)	89 (11-0)	990 (42·7)	1130 (31-0)
Symptoms at inclusion				
Jaundice (1)	639 (17-5)	36 (8.8)	70 (8-1)	533 (22-5)
Angiocholitis (2)	273 (7.5)	27 (6.6)	21 (2.4)	225 (9.5)
Ascites (3)	444 (12-2)	31 (7-6)	34 (3.9)	379 (16-0)
Anaemia (4)	596 (16-3)	69 (16-8)	70 (8-1)	457 (19-3)
Distant metastasis	1 290 (35-3)	70 (17-1)	331 (38-1)	889 (37-5)
Liver metastasis	686 (18-8)	21 (5.1)	169 (19-4)	496 (20.9)
Peritoneal metastasis	389 (10-7)	14 (3.4)	81 (9-3)	294 (12-4)
Lung metastasis	325 (8-9)	11 (2.7)	71 (8-2)	243 (10-2)
Lymph node metastasis	264 (7-2)	27 (6.6)	99 (11-4)	138 (5-8)
Bone metastasis	245 (6.7)	12 (2.9)	61 (7.0)	172 (7-3)
Patients hospitalized in their region of residence (at S1)	3 428 (93.9)	367 (89-5)	819 (94-2)	2 242 (94-6)

Table 1: Patient characteristics at first hospital stay (N = 3650 patients).

iCCA: intra-hepatic cholangiocarcinoma; (1) R17 (2) K803, K830 (3) R18 (4) D50, D510, D510, D52, D539, D598, D599, D62, D630, D638, D648, D649 All statistical tests between columns are statistically significant at 0.05%.

	OverallN (%)	Surgery group N (%)	Chemotherapy group N (%)	Best supportive care group N (%)
Global population with iCCA+	3650 (100)	410 (11,2)	869 (23,8)	2 371 (65,0)
Entry mode by emergency room	994 (28-4)	28 (6.9%)	104 (12-2)	862 (38-4)
Type of establishment				
Cancer center (CLCC)	218 (6.0)	27 (6.6)	108 (12-4)	83 (3-5)
University Hospital (CHU)	549 (15.0)	94 (22-9)	138 (15.9)	317 (13-4)
General Hospital (CHG)	2 184 (59-8)	213 (52-0)	462 (53-2)	1 509 (63.6)
Private centers	699 (19-2)	76 (18-5)	161 (18-5)	462 (19·5)
Volume of centers *				
Low (<5 patients)	1052 (28-8)	63 (15-4)	220 (25-3)	769 (32·4)
Intermediate (5-20 patients)	1551 (42-5)	123 (30-0)	391 (45.0)	1037 (43-7)
High (>20 patients)	1047 (28-7)	224 (54-6)	258 (29.7)	565 (23-8)

Table 2: Centers characteristics at first hospital stay (N = 3650 patients).

+iCCA: intra-hepatic cholangiocarcinoma; *Number of patients identified during the 2014-2015 period.

All statistical tests between columns are statistically significant at 0.05%.

Characteristics of centres at S1

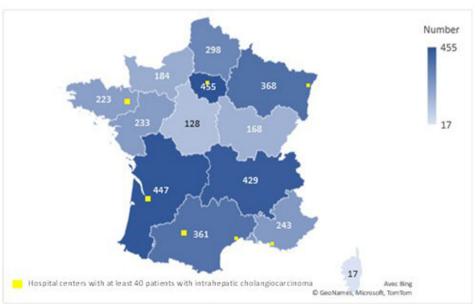
A total of 655 centres were involved in the patient's first hospital stay. Patient care was mainly provided by general hospitals (CHGs, 59·8%) rather than university hospitals (CHUs, 15·0%) and private (19·2%) or cancer centres (CLCCs, 6·0%) (Table 2). In all, 28% of patients were admitted via the emergency room (ER). Patients were mainly admitted for S1 in a hospital from their region of residence (Table 1).

Based on the number of patients treated at SI, the centres were classified as low-volume (< 5 patients,

representing 68% of centres, N = 446), intermediate-volume (5–20 patients, 26%, N = 170) and high-volume (> 20 patients, 6%, N = 39); 47% of the high-volume centres were CHU or CLCC. The geographical distribution of patients and the seven centres with the highest patient volume (> 40) are displayed in Figure 2.

Healthcare trajectories

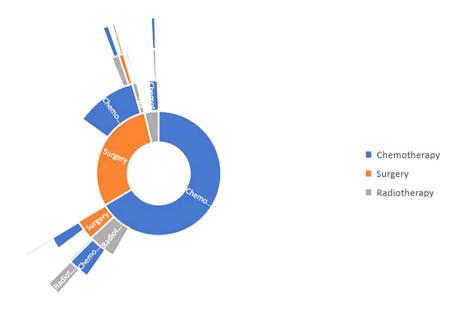
In all, 896 (24%) patients died during S1; they were older (mean age: 75 years vs 71 years) and more



The numbers on the map represent the number of patients hospitalized for intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma in each region during the

2014-2015 period

Figure. 2. Geographical distribution of patents and centers with the highest patent volume involved at first hospital stay.



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Note: this diagram describes the management of patients chronologically from the center of the figure to the periphery

Figure. 3. Healthcare trajectories of patiens who received specific therapies: Sunburst diagram.

frequently hospitalized via the ER (48% vs 23%), metastatic (52% vs 35%) and symptomatic (ascites 25% vs 8%/cholangitis 11% vs 7%) than those who did not die during S1.

Of the 2754 patients alive at S1, 2397 (87%) had subsequent stays in the MSO, 308 (11%) had subsequent stays in the SSR and 303 (11%) had subsequent stays in the HAD.

Three healthcare trajectories were defined: surgery (N = 410; II·2%), CT without surgery (N = 869; 23·8%) and best supportive care (BSC) (N = 2371; 65·0%) (Table I).

In the surgery group, patients had less frequent metastatic disease (17·1%) than in the other groups (Table 1). Surgical intervention was most often carried out in CHG (51·2%) or CHU (27·6%). The mean duration of hospital stay for surgery was 19·98 (\pm 17·72) days, and the postoperative mortality rate was 4·6%.

Patients who received CT were younger, less frequently hospitalized via the ER and less symptomatic at SI than patients from the BSC group (Tables I and 2). The mean time between SI and the start of CT was I·9 (\pm 4·7) months. The median number of CT sessions was IO (range: I-I22). CT infusions were mainly administered in CHG (54·6%), in private centres (I6·5%) or cancer centres (CLCC I5·5%).

A palliative care code was associated with S1 in 25% of patients and with a subsequent MSO, SSR, or HAD stay in 60% of patients.

The sequence of specific therapies (surgery, CT and radiotherapy) is summarized in Figure 3. For two thirds

of the patients, the first treatment modality was chemotherapy. Among them, very few patients had surgery after their chemotherapy. One third of the patients got first surgery and 40% of them had chemotherapy after their surgery during the study follow-up period (study period prior to BILCAP trial results).

Patient referral and national organization of care

Patients were mainly managed in CHG (60%) at SI, of which 17%, 7%, and 5% were referred to other private centres, CHU, or CLCC after SI (Figure 4A). Overall, patients initially managed in CHG, private centres or CHU mostly remained managed in the same type of care facility after SI.

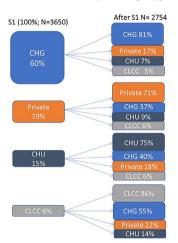
CHG was the main type of facility in charge of patient management, regardless of the healthcare group (surgery: 66.8% of patients; CT: 74.0% of patients; BSC: 57.6% of patients) (Figure 4B). Patients in the surgery group were referred to high-volume centres (79.0% of patients), while intermediate-volume centres were involved in CT (61.8%) and BSC (55%) (Figure 4C). Patients remained in their region of residence for follow-up in 91–99% of cases.

Discussion

In this study, we analysed the estimated number of cases of iCCA declared in the database during the study period 2014–2015 in France and described the

A Patient mobility according to type of center

B Patient mobility according to healthcare group/type of center



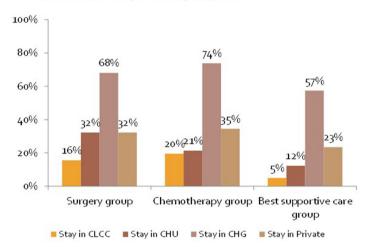


Figure. 4. (A) Patient mobility according to type of center. (B) Patient mobility according to healthcare group/type of center.

characteristics and healthcare trajectories of these patients using the French nationwide hospitalization database.

These real-world data from the recent exhaustive PMSI database revealed a higher estimated number of new iCCA cases (1825 cases/year) than those previously reported and extrapolated from local cancer registers (0.2/100,000 inhabitants). 15,16 Although the PMSI is not intended to be an epidemiological register (it aims to recover clinical activity for budgetary purposes), it provides complementary information to local registers in France. As the PMSI data are declarative and not checked from patient records, coding errors can occur, leading to underestimation as well as overestimation of the estimated number of new iCCA cases (e.g., in case of presumptive diagnosis based on imaging without full diagnostic work-up/histological confirmation). However, this increased number of iCCA cases is consistent with the current epidemiological trends observed in other developed countries. 6,19,20 This can be explained by an increase in the number of individuals exposed to risk factors associated with iCCA, including chronic liver disease, particularly NASH related to obesity and metabolic syndrome.^{21,22} In addition, a greater awareness of the diagnosis of iCCA among oncologists may have led to a better identification of these tumours and reclassification of misdiagnosed HCC, metastasis from extrahepatic primary tumours or carcinoma of unknown primary.

Moreover, our results underlined the aggressiveness of this disease, with one-quarter of patients dying at SI and two-thirds of patients not having access to active treatment. This may be related to the late diagnosis of iCCA at an advanced stage in the majority of patients.⁶ In our study, 35% of patients were diagnosed with distant metastases, and only 11% had access to surgery, which is inferior to the 22–25% rate of curative

resection previously reported for iCCA by French registries. 15,16 This may be due to coding errors, with perihilar CCA (which has a lower resection rate) coded as iCCA, for example. Unfortunately, no screening is available for iCCA given the rarity of this disease, except for the case of cirrhotic patients (ultrasound screening intended to diagnose HCC but that may detect early iCCA as well). Disease with a high tumour burden can result in altered general condition and nutritional status, which can compromise the possibility of administering specific treatments, particularly in frail, older patients or in the context of biliary complications (jaundice and angiocholitis). This finding highlights the importance of supportive care in these patients, a topic on which data are critically missing in iCCA (no prospective study available on the benefit of nutritional management or physical activity or even of the management of biliary stenosis and associated infectious complications in patients with advanced iCCA) and that would warrant more attention and investigation. Furthermore, the lack of access to specific treatment may also be related to insufficient knowledge of clinicians about the therapeutic options for iCCA, as this disease has been labelled with a poor prognosis and chemoresistant cancer for a long time. This is underlined in our study by the small proportion of patients referred to high-volume centres, except in the surgery group. iCCA management has been a rapidly moving field with many evolutions over the last years (particularly, with its molecular dismantlement into molecularly actionable subgroups, with recent drug approvals for ivosidenib¹⁷ and pemigatinib, ¹⁸ yet posterior to our study), but oncologists might not be aware of these new opportunities for this rare condition, especially when they take care of only one or two patients per year, as was the case for the majority of centres in France in our study. This could be approached by education programmes and

information directed towards oncologists and gastroenterologists; this is the aim of national guidelines published by the Societé Nationale Française de Gastroentérologie (SNFGE)²³ and soon by the Association Française pour l'étude du Foie (AFEF).

We also identified the central role of a high number of low-volume and CHG centres in the management of the majority of patients. This raises the question of the territorial organization and potential centralization of iCCA patient care in France, with the issues of referral of patients to high-volume centres for surgery by expert teams given the complexity and high morbidity associated with these procedures and sending of samples to genetic platforms for molecular testing as recently recommended by the ESMO guidelines.²⁴

The main strength of the PMSI is that it is an exhaustive database for all French hospitalized patients, providing real world, recent data. It is a particularly relevant to approach iCCA care, as the hospital plays an important role in the management of these patients. In addition, it is easy to access and operate. In contrast, as mentioned above, data entered in the PMSI are declarative and limited by the existing codes, and coding errors may occur. Finally, events outside the hospital are not captured (including deaths).

Overall, our study provides new data about iCCA in the real-world setting, revealing its increasing number of cases and aggressiveness, and shows that the patient population from clinical trials and observational cohorts of specific treatments only represents the visible part of the iceberg in this disease. This study also illustrates that the PMSI is a valuable source of information about patient care, which is complementary to other systems, including cancer and death registries, representing a model potentially applicable to other poorly described pathologies.

Contributors

Cindy Neuzillet participated in the writing of the manuscript and the interpretation of the study results.

Astrid Lièvre participated in the writing of the manuscript and the interpretation of the study results.

Corinne Emery participated in the study design, performed the statistical analysis, and participated in the writing of the manuscript and the interpretation of the study results. Clément Teissier performed the statistical analysis. Stéphane Bouée participated in the study design, the writing of the manuscript and the interpretation of the study results. All authors have read and approved the manuscript.

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data and the writing of the manuscript which was first written by the 2 experts and CEMKA.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

The study was approved by the Committee of Expertise for Research, Studies and Evaluations in the field of Healthcare (Comité d'Expertise pour les Recherches, les Etudes et les Evaluations dans le domaine de la Santé) and by the National Commission on Informatics and Liberty (Commission nationale de l'informatique et des libertés).

Declaration of interests

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Grants or contracts from any entity: Roche

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Payment or honoraria for lectures, presentations, speakers bureaus, manuscript writing or educational events: Squibb, Amgen, Merck, MSD, Novartis, Incyte Biosciences, Mylan, Baxter, Nutricia, Fresenius Kabi, Sanofi

Support for attending meetings and/or travel: MSD, Mylan, Merck, OSE Immunotherapeutics

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Other financial or non-financial interests: Clinical trials: OSE Immunotherapeutics, AstraZeneca, Servier Astrid Lièvre

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Support for attending meetings and/or travel: AAA, Bayer, Ipsen, Merck, Mylan, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche and Servier

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This study was sponsored by Incyte Biosciences International Sàrl., Geneva, Switzerland. INCYTE validated the design of the study, the analysis, the interpretation of

data and the writing of the manuscript which was first written by the 2 experts and CEMKA.

Data sharing

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the French PMSI database, but restrictions apply to the availability of these data, which were used under license for the current study, and so are not publicly available.

Editors' note: The Lancet Group takes a neutral position with respect to territorial claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

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