

Consideration of the Selection of Essential Cytotoxic Drugs for Cancer Therapy in Low-Income Countries.

Dr. Santiago Pavlovsky

Scientific Director

Centro de Internacion e Investigacion Clinica

“Angelica Ocampo”, FUNDALEU

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Selection of Drugs According to Income

- Level of Countries Income:
 - Low-income economies (59 countries).
 - Lower-middle-incomes (54 countries).
 - Upper-middle-incomes (40 countries).

Data from World Bank (2005)

Selection of Drugs According to Diseases and Benefits with Chemotherapy

Curable diseases:

- High: > 50% (e.g., pALL, pNHL, HL, DLBCL, testis)
- Low: < 50% (e.g., aALL, AML, FL, OS, ovary)

Survival benefits:

- Survival at 5 ys: >50% (e.g., CML, CLL, NHL)
- 10-50% (e.g., MM, breast, SCLC)

Palliation for advanced: (e.g., lung, colon, cervix, head and neck cancers.)

Selection of Drugs According to Years of Discovery and Cost.

Old drugs still effective and cheap:

- (e.g., ADR, CDDA, CPM, Ara-C, BLEO, DNM, Dacarb, 5FU, 6MP, MTX, VBL, VCR, PRED, Etop).

Targeted therapies, effective but very expensive:

- Rituximab in B cell lymphomas.
- Imatinib in CML, Ph+ ALL and GIST.
- Trastuzumab in HER-2 + breast cancer.
- Sunitinib in kidney cancer and GIST.
- Cetuximab in colorectal and head & neck.