

## Importance of adherence to guidelines in breast cancer clinical practice. The Italian experience (AIOM)

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### ABSTRACT

**Aims and background.** Project RIGHT (Research for the Identification of the most effective and HIGHly accepted clinical guidelines for cancer Treatment) is promoted by the Italian Association of Medical Oncology (AIOM) to evaluate the concordance between AIOM breast cancer guidelines and clinical practice in Italy. In RIGHT-1, feasibility and the appropriateness of indicators were assessed in patients with early breast cancer. RIGHT-2 evaluated the compliance with guidelines in a nationwide program.

**Methods.** Thirty-five Italian centers participated in the RIGHT-2 survey. Ten indicators were evaluated to verify an agreement between 2005 AIOM breast cancer guidelines and practice. Patients with clinical stage I-II invasive breast cancer, age  $\leq 70$  years, who had their first visit at the oncology center between October 2005 and November 2006 were included.

**Results.** In RIGHT-2,  $\geq 90\%$  adherence for the diagnosis indicator and three therapy indicators were observed. The lowest degree of compliance (0%) was observed for the follow-up indicator in asymptomatic patients.

**Conclusions.** In RIGHT-2, compliance to the 2005 AIOM breast cancer guidelines was 64%. When the follow-up indicator was eliminated, overall adherence to AIOM guidelines was 71%. The results highlight the need to continue improving the already good standards of breast cancer care.

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**Key words:** breast cancer, guideline adherence, Italian oncology guidelines.

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