

Estimate of costs with home palliative care for patients with malignant breast cancer and cutaneous metastasis

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Background

- Breast cancer is the second most diagnosed cancer worldwide.¹
- Timely and continuous palliative care may alleviate symptoms and complications of breast cancer.²
- Portugal lacks 61% of the estimated necessary capacity of palliative care community support teams.³
- This work aims to estimate the costs of home palliative care for patients with malignant female breast cancer, skin metastasis, non-hemorrhagic tumor wound, with no other metastasis.

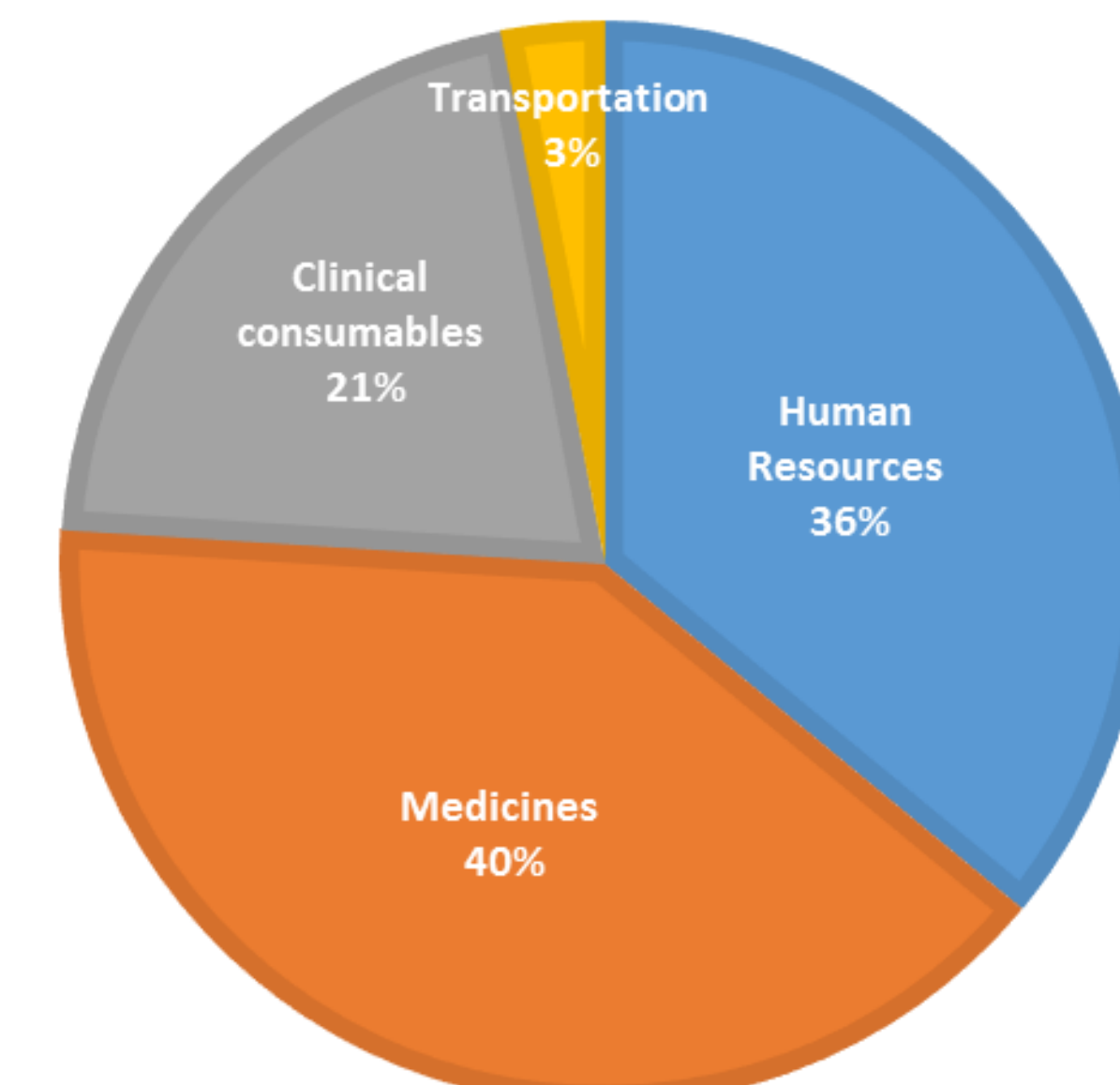
Methods

- Based on literature review, we identified the resources that could be included in home palliative care for selected patients.
- Using a modified Delphi technique and a panel of fifteen experts from different backgrounds in palliative care, after validated the resources previously identified we estimated the quantities of resources used in Portugal.
- Costs were valued according to the national official tariffs and prices for the National Health Service.
- We estimated the costs for the entire population, based on the estimated prevalence of the studied subgroup of breast cancer patients, using the inputs from experts.

Results

- 496 patients with malignant female breast cancer, skin metastasis, non-hemorrhagic tumor wound, with no other metastasis
- Unit cost per visit: €109
- Weekly cost per patient: € 325
- 8.4 million € to provide home palliative care to 496 patients during 1 year

Distribution of cost by component



Discussion

- The cost and distribution by component depend on the multidisciplinary of the team, and the type of patients involved (pathology or stage)^{7,8}.
- Previous studies also found that human resources and medicines were the main cost components^{4,5,6}
- Results were influenced by the assumptions necessary and the fact that costs for patients and informal caregivers were not considered.
- Our results provide evidence that may be used to support the expansion of home palliative care and increase response to the needs of cancer patients in Portugal.

Acknowledgment

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