The Increased Approval of Oral Oncolytics: 1995-2018

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Background
- NCODA is a patient-centered organization that ultimately aims to aid and educate practices to help patients throughout their treatment with oral oncology medications.
- The treatment of cancer via oral route (tablet/capsule) is increasing in prevalence in the clinical and outpatient settings.
- Oral medications used for the treatment of cancer are both unique and challenging, which results in increased importance of provider education to ensure safe treatment for patients.

Objectives
- Examine the growth of approval of oral oncology medications
- Identify years where approval of oral oncolytics spike
- Understand how and where oral oncolytics fit into the group of oncology medications across dosage forms
- Demonstrate need for oral oncology support

Methods
- Using information available from the National Institute of Health’s National Cancer Institute, a list was compiled of all medications with an approved indication for the treatment of cancer and its affiliated indications. This was a comprehensive list, including medications of all routes, such as oral, intravenous, etc.
- A second list was then formed, comprised strictly of oral oncolytics, or oral medications with an approved indication for the treatment of cancer from 1995-2018
- These lists were analyzed as individuals, analyzed as comparators, and extrapolated onto one another for further analysis. This was an evaluative study and IRB approval was not required.

Discussion
- Per the NIH, there are a total of 252 medications with approved indications for the treatment of cancer.
- 98 of said medications are oral oncolytics as of 2018; rising from 11 in 2000.
- Approval of oral oncolytics has most noticeably increased since 2011, with 68.4% of oral oncolytics being approved since that time.
- From 2012-2018, four individual years accounted for the approval of at least 10 oral oncolytics

Conclusion
- Approval rates and the volume of oral oncolytics is trending in an exponential-like manner.
- To adjust to this increase, providers and patients need to be increasingly educated on these medications.
- NCODA and organizations like it are of utmost importance to help ensure safe use of the medications in a rapidly growing market.

References
- https://www.centerwatch.com/drug-information/fda-approved-drugs/therapeutic-area/12/oncology
- https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/treatment/drugs