SEOM clinical guidelines: a necessary tool

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This special issue of *Clinical and Translational Oncology* features the second part of the SEOM's Clinical Practice Guidelines, which have been prepared by renowned experts on each topic, with a standardised structure to facilitate their practical use.

The Guidelines aim to meet demand from our members who, in the survey conducted at the last SEOM Congress held in Barcelona, identified the development of these Guidelines as one of the priority objectives expected from our Society. These Guidelines have multiple objectives, but there are two of crucial importance. First, to establish a document of high technical quality that is up-to-date (inasmuch as that is possible with a publication in an area undergoing constant change, such as that of medical oncology), simple and brief, and provides general oncologists with the necessary knowledge to treat any cancer patient.

The second, no less important in these times, is to provide medical oncologists with standards endorsed by their Society before patients, the community in general and the health authorities. These standards should guarantee the quality of the recommended treatments from a technical standpoint and serve as the foundation for building other approaches, such as those of cost effectiveness.

These Guidelines are not an alternative to the recommendations and Guidelines prepared on occasion by cooperative groups, but rather in most cases they complement these recommendations because they have been prepared by colleagues who belong to these groups, and they have added value. That is, the value of being the official recommendations of a scientific society such as SEOM, which is a scientific and social reference for cancer awareness in our country.

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