2017 SEOM guidelines: a multidisciplinary approach

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The purpose of SEOM guidelines is to be a useful tool for medical oncologists to provide the best care for cancer patients based on scientific evidence considering the peculiarities of the Spanish healthcare system, to be a reference to recommend the best treatments to health authorities, and guarantee the equity of access to the best care for all patients in our country [1].

One of SEOM's objectives is to promote a multidisciplinary approach to provide cancer patients comprehensive care and to encourage uniformity of criteria for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in various locations and extensions. In 2017, SEOM clinical guidelines have incorporated other specialties such as surgery, radiology, pathology, and radiation oncology to achieve this objective.

The new edition of the World Health Organization (WHO) book on 'Histological Typing of Tumours of the Central Nervous System' reflects the progress in brain tumor classification. The SEOM guideline for the treatment of malignant glioma published in 2012 has been updated in three new guidelines (SEOM clinical guidelines for low-grade glioma, anaplastic gliomas, and glioblastoma) [2–4]. These guidelines point out the importance of a multidisciplinary approach in the management of these tumors and provide recommendations for radiological, molecular diagnosis, and treatment.

Endometrial cancer guidelines have also been updated by a multidisciplinary team including topics about pathology, recent advances in molecular biology and surgery. Endometrial cancer guidelines summarized best evidence about adjuvant chemotherapy in high-risk patients [5]. Clinical guidelines in rare tumors are a highly valued tool for Spanish medical oncologists in their daily practice. It is the first

time that a guideline for trophoblastic gestational disease (GTD) is included. GTD is a rare but a curable disease [6]. These SEOM guidelines for GTD provide a practical point of view to help medical oncologists in their management including algorithms for diagnosis, treatment, and followup and chemotherapy schemes.

The options for patients with kidney cancer have recently increased with the addition of several new treatments. In this update, authors provide recommendations about the management of this tumor [7]. The guidelines for the treatment of metastatic prostate cancer summarize the new options of treatment in the castration-resistant disease and define the state of the art of treatment in this scenario [8].

In melanoma management guidelines, there are recommendations about indications of sentinel node biopsy, adjuvant therapy, and treatment options of metastatic melanoma guided by BRAF status [9].

Head and neck cancer and nasopharyngeal cancer guidelines have been updated. In the head and neck cancer update, authors describe the important changes that introduce the eighth edition of TNM classification, published in January 2017. These guidelines review the new data about induction chemotherapy and the role of immunotherapy in head and neck tumors [10]. Authors of nasopharynx cancer guidelines remark on the differences in biology, natural history, and response to treatment from other head and neck cancers justifying a different approach [11].

Cancer of unknown origin requires understanding several clinical and pathological features that could help oncologists in identifying subsets of patients with more responsive tumors [12].

Supportive care is very important to improve cancer patients' quality of life. SEOM considers supportive care essential in the education of a medical oncologist. SEOM's Supportive Care Working Group provides many educational activities and guidelines for medical oncologists' educational background. More than 80% of patients with metastatic cancer will suffer pain. In this issue, the management of pain in cancer patients is updated [13].

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The SEOM board's desire is that this new edition of the SEOM guidelines will help medical oncologists in their clinical practice and will be useful to reduce disparities in our country.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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