



Saving and Improving Lives by Addressing Cancer-Associated Thrombosis

Cancer-associated thrombosis (blood clots) is a leading cause of death in cancer patients. It affects patients of all cancer types, at all cancer stages. It is essential that the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the EU Cancer Mission both improve our understanding of this common comorbidity and its effect on cancer outcomes in Europe, and apply existing patient safety tools to advance cancer diagnosis, care and outcomes.

The ETHA calls upon the European Commission, the Cancer Mission Board and Assembly, and all other relevant stakeholders to decrease cancer mortality by addressing cancer-associated thrombosis.

Cancer is a strong risk factor for developing thrombosis and thrombosis is an important early warning sign for cancer; cancer patients have a four-times higher risk than the general population of developing thrombosis. As such, it is vital that it is addressed both within the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan (EBCP) and the EU Cancer Mission.

Europe's Beating

Cancer Plan

Early detection & Diagnosis:

Current Situation

Thrombosis risk-assessment and appropriate prophylaxis in patients newly diagnosed with cancer can contribute to **fewer life-threatening complications.**

In many patients, cancer is detected following a blood clot, which can serve as early warning signs of cancer and be a major source of negative outcomes in cancer patients. Screening for blood clots **can improve earlier diagnosis of cancer.**

Policy Ask

All diagnosed cancer patients in Europe should receive thrombosis risk assessment and appropriate thromboprophylaxis through a harmonised European approach.

Treatment and Care:

Current Situation

Cancer patients **could already be safer using existing technologies** if tools like thrombotic risk-assessment and thromboprophylaxis were consistently available.

Unfortunately, best practices for thrombosis risk assessment **are not consistently adhered to** or are differently applied across Europe, causing large divergences in patient outcomes.

Policy Ask

Consistency in management of cancer-associated thrombosis can be achieved by creating a common standard for thrombosis risk assessment in cancer. Facilitating the sharing of best practices across Member States to improve patient safety and inform clinical practice is essential.



Quality of life for cancer patients, survivors and carers:

Current Situation

Cancer-associated thrombosis is **a major contributor to chronic disability** and loss of working days for cancer patients who experience non-fatal clots.

As cancer patients have a higher recurrence risk of thrombosis than non-cancer patients, managing this comorbidity is of **high importance for the patient's quality of life** after treatment.

Policy Ask

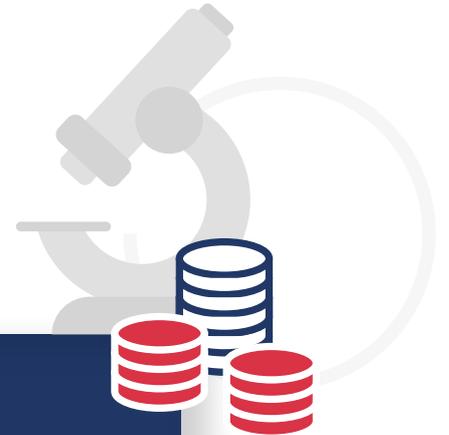
We call for a harmonised approach to managing the risk of recurring comorbidities such as thrombosis to improve cancer patients' and carers' quality of life.



Cancer

Mission

Research funding is needed to improve understanding of the interplay between cancer and blood clotting at all stages of the patient journey.



Recommendation 1:

Launch UNCAN.eu – a European Initiative to Understand Cancer.

Current Situation

While the relationship is well-documented, there are remaining gaps in scientific **understanding of how blood clots form** as cancers initiate, develop and spread.

Policy Ask

UNCAN.eu should include investment in research into the mechanisms of blood clot formation and cancer growth to better understand how such knowledge can best be translated into clinical practice.

Recommendation 4:

Optimise existing screening programmes and develop novel approaches for screening and early detection.



Current Situation

Thrombosis risk-assessment and appropriate prophylaxis in patients newly diagnosed with cancer will mean **fewer life-threatening complications** in cancer patients.

Policy Ask

The research programme should include calls for research to better understand genomic, environmental and other factors that affect the risk of cancer-associated thrombosis to improve personalisation of clot prevention in cancer patients.

The research programme should include calls for research to identify risk factors for cancer-associated thrombosis in order to recognise patients at high risk of cancer due to blood clotting.

Recommendation 5:

Advance and implement personalised medicine approaches for all cancer patients in Europe.

Current Situation

Existing tools like thrombotic risk-assessment and thromboprophylaxis are not consistently available as part of personalised cancer care.

Policy Ask

The advancement, scaling, implementation and optimisation of current personalised medicine approaches for cancer should include a harmonised European approach to managing the risk of thrombosis recurrence in cancer patients.



Recommendation 8:

Create a European Cancer Patient Digital Centre where cancer patients and survivors can deposit and share their data for personalised care.

Current Situation

Despite its prevalence, data on the incidence and treatment of thrombosis in cancer patients **is patchy across Europe.**

Policy Ask

ECPDC should include a harmonised approach to data collection and registration of thrombotic events in cancer patients.



As thrombosis (blood clots) is a horizontal risk factor in cancer, both the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the Cancer Mission must jointly mitigate its impact at every stage of the cancer journey in order to improve patient outcomes and reduce deaths from cancer. The ETHA calls for action within both the EBCP and the Cancer Mission to improve our understanding

of this common comorbidity and its effect on cancer outcomes in Europe and apply existing patient safety tools to advance cancer diagnosis, care and outcomes. To this end, the ETHA stands as a willing a source of information on how to minimise the impact of clotting disorders, such as clinical best practice guides and risk assessment tools.

About ETHA:

The European Thrombosis and Haemostasis Alliance (ETHA) is made up of eminent clinicians and researchers from European national and international societies representing those working in the field of thrombotic and bleeding disorders. We have come together to give the European thrombosis and haemostasis community

an allied voice and provide input to EU health and patient safety strategies; make recommendations on EU research programme funding and encourage sharing and adoption of best practices in the treatment and prevention of thrombotic and bleeding disorders across Member States.

About Thrombosis:

Thrombosis, also known as blood clots, is the formation of potentially deadly blood clots in an artery (arterial thrombosis) or vein (venous thrombosis). It is the underlying

cause of heart attack, thromboembolic stroke, and venous thromboembolism (VTE), the top three cardiovascular killers.

About Cancer-Associated Thrombosis:

Cancer-associated thrombosis (CAT) is the formation of a blood clot inside a blood vessel that is associated with cancer.

Find out more:

See www.etha.eu and follow the ETHA on Twitter at @EuropeanTHA

Contact:

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