



The evaluation of clinical results in certified centres
Ellen Griesshammer
German Cancer Society e.V. –
European Cancer Centre Certification Programme



ECC Certification Programme initiated by the German Cancer Society

Goal of the certification process:

Improve quality of care through:

- implementation of interdisciplinary, multi-professional, *tumour-specific networks*
- ensuring broad **application of evidence-based guideline** recommendations
- creating **transparency of outcomes** & introducing quality improvement cycle (e.g. with Quality Indicators)
- establishing a certificate that provides **guidance and serves as a decision aid** for patients

Achievements of the certification programme:

- **1.910 certified centres in 6 countries**
(= 60% of incident cases in Germany are treated in a certified centre)
- **18 tumour specific modules** with qualitative and quantitative requirements
- **No conflict-of-interest** in the certification process due clear division of power between scheme owner (standards), certifying body (auditors)
- **Knowledge-generating oncological care** through connecting research and care (e.g. PROMs matched with clinical outcome data)
- **Confirmed improvement of patient relevant outcomes** (among others: survival, morbidity)

What benefits can be achieved for patients when they are treated in tumour-specific centres certified by the German Cancer Society ?



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Effectiveness of Care in Certified Cancer Centres in Germany (WiZen) - Findings on outcome quality and success of data linkage

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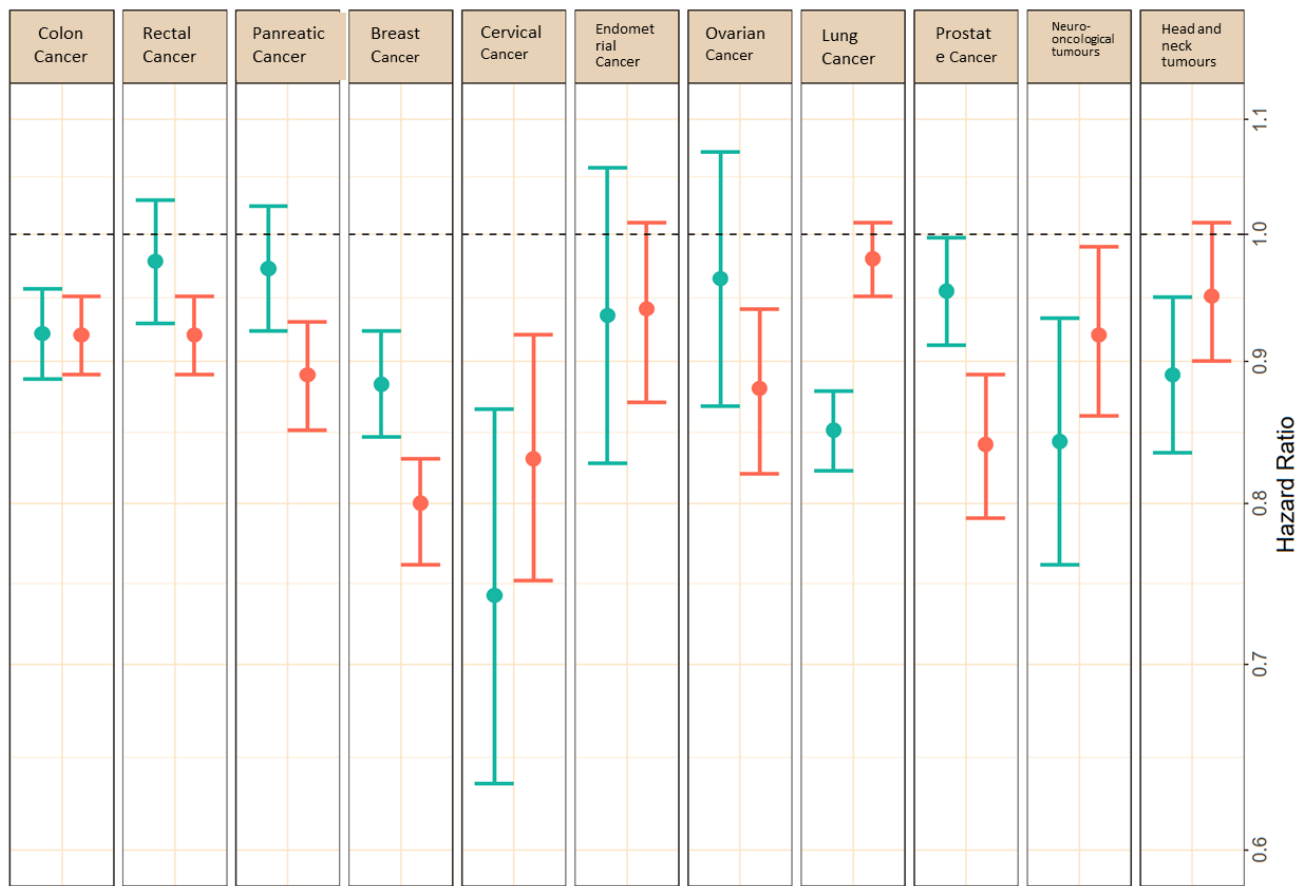
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Study design: Secondary data-based cohort study 2009-2017

Data basis: data from the biggest statutory health insurance (SHI) in Germany linked with data from clinical cancer registries (CCR) for 1 million patients

Aim: Aggregated comparison of certified centres with non-certified clinics in terms of multiple outcomes (Adjustment for patient-side risk factors (e.g. age, gender, stage, secondary malignancy) and structural characteristics of the hospitals (e.g. number of beds, ownership)).

What benefits can be achieved for patients when they are treated in tumour-specific centres certified by the German Cancer Society ?



⇒ clear and mostly significant survival benefits when the patients are treated in tumour-specific certified cancer centres



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Do certified cancer centers provide more cost-effective care? A health economic analysis of colon cancer care in Germany using administrative data

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- Cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA) by phase (initial, continuing, terminal) of colorectal cancer treatment in certified (CHs) vs. non-certified (NCHs) hospitals based on a matched cohort (N=3818) with AOK PLUS (large statutory health insurance in Saxony, Germany) data.
- Effectiveness measure was total survival time in life-years. The outcome of interest was the incremental cost per additional life year.
- CEA showed **longer survival and lower treatment costs in CHs vs NCHs.**

What benefits can be achieved for patients when they are treated in tumour-specific centres certified by the German Cancer Society ?

The outcome quality is improved:

- Improvement in overall survival and disease-specific survival.
- Reduction of postoperative mortality, 30-day mortality and in-hospital mortality
- Improvement in functional outcome, complication rate, recurrence rate and R1 rate after surgery
- Improvement in the management of complex disease constellations

and costs are reduced:

Adjusted cost-effectiveness analysis: -€38,858 per additional year of life if patients were treated in a certified colorectal cancer centre.

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Thank you very much for your attention!

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Ministerio de Sanidad