What is the value of surgical oncology as part of cancer care?

Surgical oncology is critical to ensure high quality cancer care

- 80% of cancer patients will require surgical intervention during the course of their disease.
- 45m surgical procedures will be needed worldwide per year by 2030.
- <25% of cancer patients actually receive safe, affordable or timely surgery across the globe.

Cancers amenable to surgery are estimated to cause 2.7 million years of life lost to disability worldwide.

Surgical oncology has multiple roles in cancer patients

- Surgical resection remains the best chance of cure for solid cancers when diagnosed early.
- Reduces the risk of getting cancer as part of hereditary syndromes.
- Diagnoses and stages cancer.
- Treats locally advanced cancer & metastatic disease.
- Preserves quality of life and palliates symptoms.

Surgical oncology can cure the most prevalent and deadly cancers, including:
- Breast
- Skin
- Lung
- Liver
- Colon

Surgical oncology is cost-effective

For the majority of non-metastasised solid tumours, surgery is the most cost-effective treatment with the highest value for money.

- COSTS OF CANCER SURGERY
- COSTS OF SYSTEMIC THERAPY

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Surgical oncology is keeping pace with innovation

Research is continuing to refine surgical oncology technologies, techniques and processes to allow more patients to benefit from effective, safe, minimally invasive and cost-effective treatment.

Innovations such as robotics, functional imaging and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are opening new horizons to enhance cancer surgery.
Unlocking the potential of surgical oncology in Europe: ESSO's recommendations

1. Recognise surgical oncology as a specialty and harmonise education across Europe

| Surgical oncology should be recognised as a specialist discipline in the EU | Access to high-quality and uniform training developed and delivered by surgical oncology societies should be ensured on a country-specific basis | Continuous medical education and certification of surgical oncologists should be standard practice |

The recognition of surgical oncology as a specialty and the harmonisation of training across Europe would help:
- Reduce disparities in qualifications, practices and outcomes
- Address inequalities in access to high-quality cancer care

2. Support research and innovation in surgical oncology

- Research efforts and funds should be redirected to local treatment of non metastatic disease, which will have a significant impact on survival
- Innovation in surgical techniques, which allow preservation of function and quality of life in cancer patients, should be developed and evaluated
- Strong involvement of surgical oncologists in developing optimal multimodal treatment regimens should be fostered

Despite its potential to cure, surgical oncology research remains highly underfunded compared with trials led by the pharmaceutical industry

3. Promote the role of surgical oncology in multidisciplinary cancer care

| Multidisciplinary care, of which surgical oncology is an integral component, should be provided consistently to all cancer patients in Europe | Surgical oncologists should lead multidisciplinary teams and coordinate the care of patients for a majority of solid tumours | Certification and accreditation of surgical oncologists and multidisciplinary cancer units across the EU should be harmonised to ensure a uniformly high level of care |