

Answers for Slovenia, provided by the Ministry of Health Slovenia

Which are the NCCP priorities with regards to rare cancers?

In Slovenia, diagnostics and treatment of about 60% of all cancer patients is provided in four medical institutions at the tertiary level (three of these are in the greater Ljubljana area and one in Maribor). In the NCCP 2010-2015 one of the priorities is the need for the best possible expert treatment. So a concentration of diagnostics and treatment for thyroid and testicular cancer, soft-tissue sarcomas, melanoma, malignant lymphoma and other rare tumours (according to the RARECARE definition) is planned at the tertiary level, mainly at the Institute of Oncology Ljubljana. This is monitored by the Cancer Registry of Republic of Slovenia.

The survival of patients with all the cancer diseases mentioned above is comparable to western European countries according to EUROCARE study results. The survival of patients with more frequent cancer diseases, diagnosed and treated in regional hospitals also is mainly below European average. On the web page of our NCCP (www.dpor.si) recommendations where rare cancer should be treated already exist.

Nevertheless, in the Action Plan of NCCP 2016-2020 we will make a more detailed list of institutions where rare cancers are treated

Where are rare cancer patients treated in Slovenia?

Since Slovenia is a small country (2 million) the rare cancers are referred to the only one Comprehensive Cancer center – Institute of Oncology Ljubljana and some of them to other 3 tertiary institutions.

How are hospitals identified? Are there any criteria?

An exact list with some criteria will be the one of the priorities of the Action plan of NCCP 2016-2020.