COCIR Virtual Session
21 Oct 2020

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
Anticancer Fund

# CAN WE IMPROVE THE FUTURE OF **BREAST CANCER CARE** IN THE EU?

## How can Medical Technologies support Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment?

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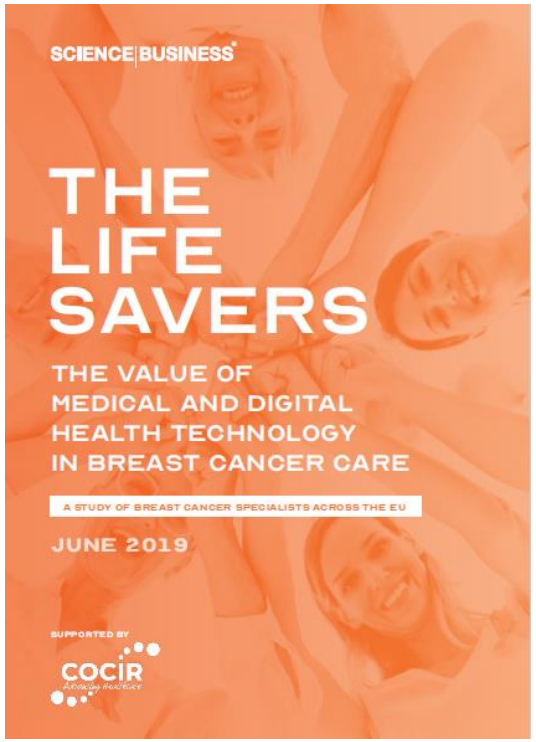
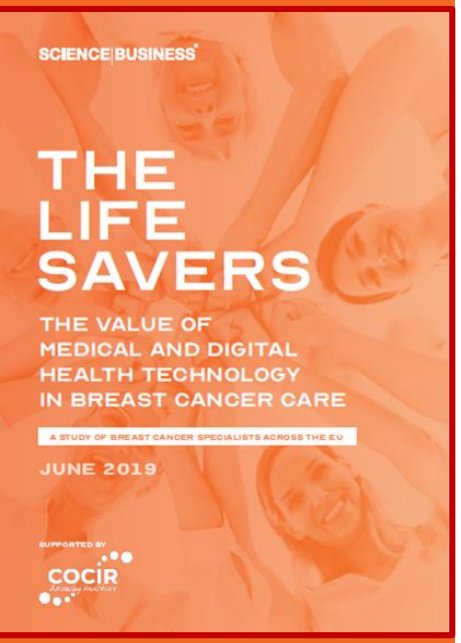
# Highlights and Lessons from The Life Savers Study

- Early detection and accurate diagnosis save lives
- Precision diagnosis must be combined with personalised treatment (radiotherapy; surgery; systemic therapies)
- Women / Patients and Health Care Professionals embrace digital health solutions
- Patient Experience across the entire care pathway must be at the centre of care




Source: https://www.cocir.org/fileadmin/Publications_2019/SB_COCIR_The_Life_Saver_Repor_-_June_2019_0.pdf

# The Life Savers Study: Challenges & Recommendations




**AT EU LEVEL, TWO MAJOR CHALLENGES:**

1. **Large health inequities**: Big disparities of access to care and outcomes for breast cancer across and within EU Member States
2. The need for **more progress in optimizing technology**, treatment development, and data collection methodologies

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EU MEMBER STATES:**

1. Speed-up **multi-disciplinary and digital efforts** to collect, share and analyse health data across EU Member States
2. Put **Patients at the centre:** Improve shared decision making; instead of fragmented care integrated multi-disciplinary  breast care should be a reality for all women
3. Support EU Member States in the development and adoption of **appropriate and transparent methodologies** for assessing the **value of new health technologies**
4. Support EU Member States in **harmonising their screening programmes**. Variance in practice across the EU is high, resulting in unequal health outcomes

# Medical Technologies contribute greatly to early and precision cancer diagnosis

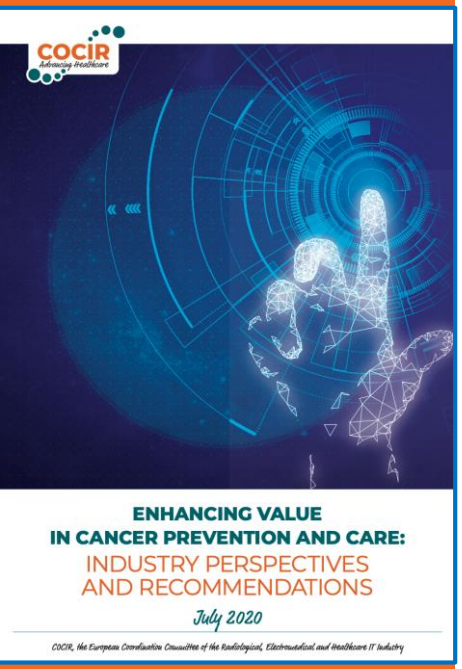

- **Improving the stratification of risk groups** allows the use of innovative targeted technologies that can better address the differing needs of women / patient groups
- **Adopting up-to-date imaging methods** reduces radiation exposure and subsequently the risks for women / patients and healthcare professionals alike
- **Adopting digital solutions** such as AI-based decision support systems can help improve diagnostic accuracy, particularly for the standardised, high-volume procedures typical in cancer screening programmes
- **Utilising teleradiology** helps improve access to screening programmes as well as supporting efficient resources use in healthcare
- **Generating, storing and annotating harmonised clinical data from screening programmes**, based on international standards, would simplify the exchange of such data between Member States (e. g. for research purposes; evidence generation)

  This would help make large-scale, high-quality data available when integrated into a European Health Data Space

Source: https://www.cocir.org/fileadmin/Position_Papers_2020/COCIR_Paper_on_Cancer_-_2_July_2020_-_final.pdf

# Value in Cancer Prevention and Care

## Targeted Breast Cancer Screening for additional risk groups




Screening of potentially high-risk breast cancer patients would bring major societal benefits, as early detection would improve survival rates and treatment possibilities. There is sufficient scientific and clinical evidence [RCTs] that MRI has a higher sensitivity and specificity for women at high risk, especially in younger age, and those with dense breasts.

Current guidelines recommend that only women at high risk should be screened using MRI. High risk means those women with a gene mutation or strong family history. However:

- 10 percent of women have BRA1/2 mutation with ~70 percent risk of breast cancer.
- 40 percent of women have dense breasts, and thus have an elevated risk of ~20 percent
- The remaining 50 percent of women have an approximately 6 percent risk on breast cancer

Based on these data, **supplemental MRI screening** would be equally beneficial to this segment of the population of women with dense breasts.
Currently the guideline recommendations are not implemented in all healthcare systems across Europe – not all systems allow access to these technologies or provide reimbursement for these examinations.

Source: https://www.cocir.org/fileadmin/Position_Papers_2020/COCIR_Paper_on_Cancer_-_2_July_2020_-_final.pdf

# The Importance of Radiotherapy in Breast Cancer Treatment

- **ESTABLISH** a pan-European cancer therapy registry to optimise strategies of diagnosis, treatment and care, quality of life and ultimately, survival

- **INCREASE** access to and modernize radiotherapy infrastructures by
  - using EU cohesion funds for the replacement of ageing technologies and the expansion of the installed base
  - revising national reimbursement systems to realize the full potential of advanced techniques and reflect the required resources and expertise

- **ENHANCE** general IT infrastructure to allow remote service Accessing hospital networks and planning treatment regimens remotely from home – without compromising confidential patient information – could help increase access to radiation therapy

Between 50-70% of cancer patients require radiotherapy during the course of their treatment. However, 25% of patients across the EU that could benefit from radiotherapy do not receive it.

Sources: https://www.cocir.org/fileadmin/Position_Papers_2020/COCIR_Paper_on_Cancer_-_2_July_2020_-_final.pdf
https://www.cocir.org/fileadmin/Publications_2019/19107_COC_Radiotherapy_Age_Profile_web4.pdf

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# - Cancer doesn’t take a break -

https://www.krebsmachtkeinepause.org/