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**Referral of oncologic patients to the palliative care**

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**Background & Aim:** The cancer has becoming chronic, with more symptoms and functional decline. Palliative Care should be provided as soon as possible. It was intended to analyze the process of referral, particularly, through the survival and the time between diagnosis and admission, as well as characterize the population at the time of admission.

**Method:** A descriptive cross-sectional observational study. The clinical processes of all cancer patients referred to the Palliative Medicine Unit of the North Lisbon Hospital Center who died, were discharged or were transferred during the year 2013 were accessed.

**Results:** 242 patients (51% men, median age 69 years) were included; 46% had cancers of the digestive organs; median survival was 28 days; median time between diagnosis and admission was 16 months. This time was higher for cancers of male genital organs and patients in stage IV and a high level of PPS.

**Conclusions:** Compared to the other studies, survival was short and the interval between diagnosis and admission was long. The clinical characteristics show a state of advanced disease. All this seems to indicate a pattern of late referral.