GETHI
Report

2012 · 2015

Grupo Gethi
Grupo Español de Tumores Huérfanos e Infrecuentes

Index

GETHI Report 2012 · 2015

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Through Directive 24/2011, the European Commission urged the member states of the European Union to develop Reference Networks, with the aim of improving the care and quality of life of patients with rare diseases and, by extension, those with rare tumours. The first objective of the Reference Networks is to connect the most highly qualified professionals with Specialised Reference Centres, thereby achieving a concentration of knowledge in those areas where resources are scarce.

This idea inspired the creation of the Spanish Task Force Group for Orphan and Infrequent Tumours (GETHI), which was founded in February 2012 thanks to the help and support of the Spanish Society of Medical Oncology (SEOM). Since then, our group has promoted the participation and collaboration of professionals working in clinical practice, epidemiology and basic cancer research, thus creating a network to drive clinical research, to share information and experiences through the registries of rare tumours and, above all, to be able to offer our patients better care.

It is for this reason that, as current President of GETHI, I would first like to acknowledge the work carried out by the previous team, and especially Dr. Enrique Grande as motivator of the group; he was the one who set it up and got us on board with the idea that it is necessary for us to know each other and to share our knowledge.

During these three years of existence, we have focused our work on increasing the number of specialists whose medical practice work is related to some type of infrequent neoplasm. Therefore, our initial objective was to establish networks of expert specialists at a national level, which would provide us with faster ways of communicating with each other and would break down the geographical, knowledge and experience barriers, which is the main concern of the patient who has been diagnosed with a rare cancer and goes in hope to their oncologist.

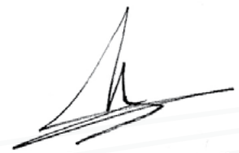
At the same time, scientific research into these types of tumours and the training of professionals interested in this area has been, and continues to be, the Group's main priority.

Through opinion forums, work groups, publications and professional meetings we want to respond to the reality of Oncology of Orphan and Infrequent Tumours and to meet the new challenges that emerge in the treatment and research of the same, which will result in better patient care.

We have already created various registries of rare tumour families –thyroid, bronchial carcinoid, intestinal neuroendocrine– and registries of other families are in the project phase. We are working closely with other cooperative groups which, from another perspective, have similar registries, such as the Spanish Neuroendocrine Tumour Group (GETNE) and the Spanish Sarcoma Research Group (GEIS). Let's not forget that, in the area of research, important clinical trials have already been conducted which clearly demonstrate a before and after in the treatment of infrequent tumours.

Our activity is defined by the future. A patient diagnosed with an infrequent tumour should not have to experience the sense of isolation caused when informed of the rarity of their disease. The oncologist attending the patient must convey that, in the context of an extensive network of expert specialists the rare or infrequent tumour ceases to be so.

GETHI has great future prospects, both in terms of the progressive expansion of our network of contacts and the interest generated in establishing epidemiological and clinical research projects. I therefore encourage all interested members and specialists to participate actively in GETHI in order to achieve the objectives proposed at the beginning of this letter.



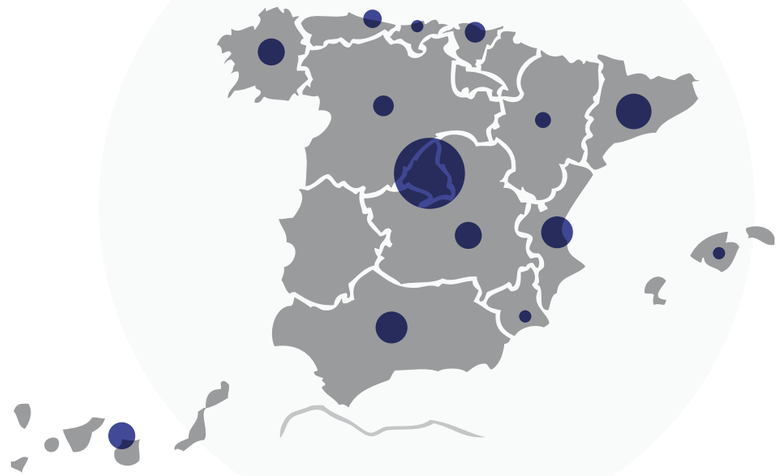
Ramón de las Peñas
President of GETHI

ABOUT GETHI

Rare tumours present a challenge in the daily practice of medical professionals from a diagnostic and therapeutic point of view. Despite being considered the third or fourth most common tumour in terms of incidence, and the fact that they account for around 20% of all solid tumours, these neoplasms are diagnosed separately in fewer than **5 cases per 100,000 people each year**. This means that professionals rarely come across these diseases in their daily work and that patients who suffer from them often feel isolated.

The **Spanish Task Force Group for Orphan and Infrequent Tumours (GETHI)** was established on **9 February 2012** with the aim of promoting basic, translational and clinical research into rare tumours and of creating a network to support the work of oncology professionals in this field.

GETHI currently has **132 members**, the majority of whom are medical oncology specialists, from **78 Spanish hospitals and research centres**.



GETHI members by autonomous community

"Research into rare tumours is not only a moral duty, but also a unique source of knowledge that will benefit the whole of society"

Mission and vision

GETHI seeks to achieve a **qualitative leap in the approach and research into orphan and infrequent tumours**. Through the promotion of training activities, conducting own and collaborative research and the creation of networks of professionals in rare tumours, GETHI aims to contribute directly to **enriching scientific knowledge** and to the expertise of our professionals to be able to offer **greater quality care** to patients.

We aspire to be a **scientific group of reference** for infrequent neoplasms, both in Spain and abroad; a group that can provide professionals with the support, resources and tools they need, as well as involve them in this common project aimed at making rare tumours increasingly less unknown.

We are certain that the efforts of all of us who strive to gain ground on these tumours will one day change the history of cancer.

Objectives

To create a national network of professionals that will enable medical oncology professionals to access the information they need about infrequent neoplasms in a personal, simple and complete way without having to consult foreign registries.

To serve as a bridge and to provide support in the collaboration with the various cooperative groups working in the field of neoplasms in which there are rare or infrequent variants, promoting the mutual enrichment of the groups for the benefit of patients.

To quantify the impact of rare tumours in Spain, using population-based registries that offer real, quality data on incidence in Spain.

To train specialists in rare tumours, who can promote basic, translational and clinical research in the future.

To draw up treatment guidelines and clinical practice protocols that enable professionals to offer greater quality of care to patients.

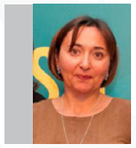
To support research and access to new treatments, as the principal lobby group formed by experts in rare tumours in Spain.

To promote strategic partnerships with scientific institutions and companies focused on studying and raising awareness about rare diseases, in order to combine our efforts in the fight against these pathologies.

Board of Directors 2015-2018

Dr. Ramón de las Peñas
Consorcio Hospitalario Provincial de Castellón
President

Dr. Martín Lázaro
Complexo Hospitalario Universitario de Vigo
Vice-President



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Dr. Federico Longo
Hospital Ramón y Cajal
Member

Dr. Juan Antonio Virizuela
H.U. Virgen de Macarena
Member

Work groups

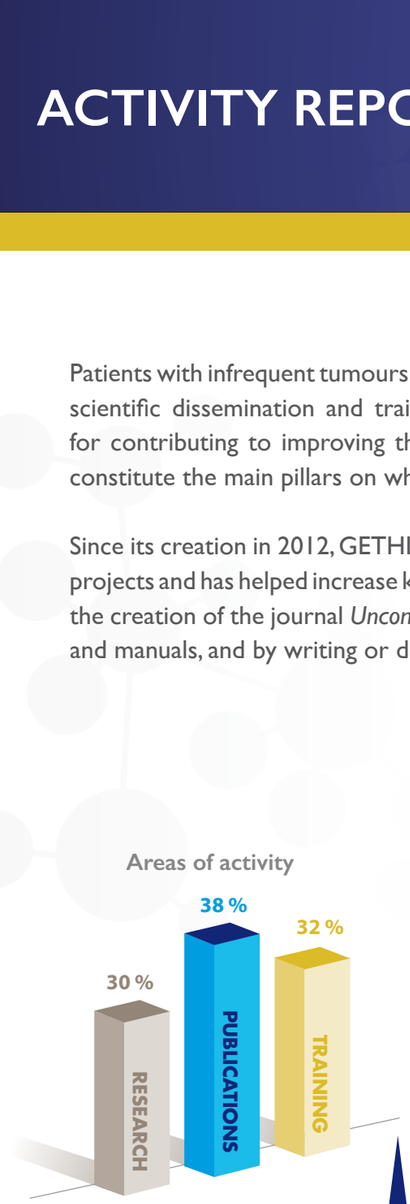
TUMOUR

- Pheochromocytoma / Paraganglioma
- Adrenocortical Carcinoma
- Non-Glioma Brain Tumours
- Non-Melanoma Skin Tumours
- Thymoma
- Thyroid Tumours
- Eye Tumours
- Rare Head and Neck Tumours
- Children's Tumours in Adults (Wilms, Medulloblastoma, PNET)
- Rare Sarcomas
- Sarcomas / Neuroendocrine Tumours
- Tumours of Unknown Origin
- Other tumours

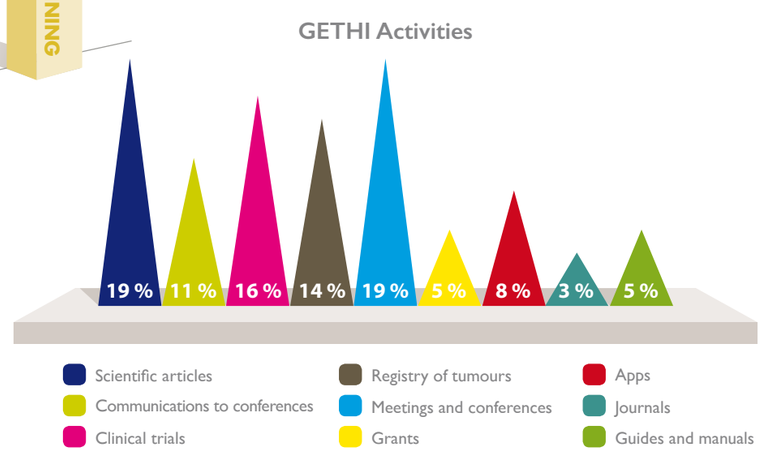
Patients with infrequent tumours are the main focus of GETHI's activity. Research, scientific dissemination and training of professionals are the key instruments for contributing to improving the outlook and care of patients and therefore constitute the main pillars on which the Group's work is founded.

Since its creation in 2012, GETHI has implemented over 25 research and training projects and has helped increase knowledge about these types of tumours through the creation of the journal *Uncommon Oncology,* the publication of various guides and manuals, and by writing or directly contributing to several scientific articles

Areas of activity



GETHI Activities



Research

CLINICAL TRIALS

PI: Jesús García Donas, *CIOCC*

Greko I: Ketoconazole in the treatment of metastatic ovarian granulosa-cell carcinoma

The aim of this trial was to study the benefits of Ketoconazole in the treatment of ovarian granulosa-cell carcinomas, in order to be able to offer an alternative therapy with lower toxicity. Greco I is the first attempt at treating ovarian granulosa-cell cancer with a solid molecular rationale.

PI: Jesús García Donas, *CIOCC*

Greco II: Orteronel in metastatic or advanced non-respectable ovarian granulosa-cell tumours

The main objective of this trial is to evaluate the clinical benefit rate and to determine the toxicity profile of Orteronel in metastatic ovarian granulosa-cell tumours.

PI: María Ángeles Vaz, *H.U. Ramón y Cajal*

Molecular alterations in oligodendroglial tumours

This trial involves studying the underlying molecular changes in oligodendroglial brain tumours, in order to understand the mechanisms of evolution between these types of tumours and to find effective therapeutic treatment targets for this orphan pathology.

PI: Jesús García Donas, *CIOCC*

Greko III: Enzalutamide in ovarian granulosa-cell tumours

The objective of Greko III is to gather scientific evidence of the potential of Enzalutamide in the treatment of ovarian granulosa-cell cancer. The study is therefore focused on evaluating the overall response rate of patients, establishing the clinical benefit and determining the toxicity level of the drug.

Research

PI: Xabier Mielgo, *H. Fundación de Alcorcón*

The Pembro-rare trial: A multi-centre phase II study of Pembrolizumab in patients with rare cancers

This is the first clinical trial in Phase II of the compound Pembrolizumab in rare tumours, where molecular research is carried out in order to identify which cases are most likely to benefit from this therapy.

PI: Federico Longo, *H.U. Ramón y Cajal*

Pembrolizumab maintenance after first-line chemotherapy treatment for Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP), a phase II trial conducted by GETHI

This clinical trial is aimed at studying Pembrolizumab maintenance after the first line of chemotherapy treatment for Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP). It also aims to predict toxicity and to increase the total response rate in patients being treated with Pembrolizumab

TUMOUR REGISTRY

Registry of bronchial carcinoids

This registry favours the exchange of experiences with therapeutic solutions used by professionals in bronchial carcinoids, in order to promote the establishment of consensus guidelines aimed at standardising treatments.

Medullary Thyroid Carcinoma

At national level, this registry was created to include the maximum number of cases of medullary thyroid carcinoma, regardless of their stage, the treatments used or the molecular-genetic state of the tumour.

Differentiated/undifferentiated radioiodine-refractory thyroid carcinoma

This nationwide registry can include all cases of differentiated/undifferentiated thyroid carcinomas which have demonstrated refractoriness to treatment with radioactive isotope

GETHI-TOD-DATABASE

This project, which is currently in the development stage, is aimed at creating a registry of tumours of unknown origin at a national level, and centralised within the GETHI group. The objective is to include clinical and pathological characteristics in order to acquire a better knowledge of descriptive statistics and of the prognosis and treatment of tumours of origin.

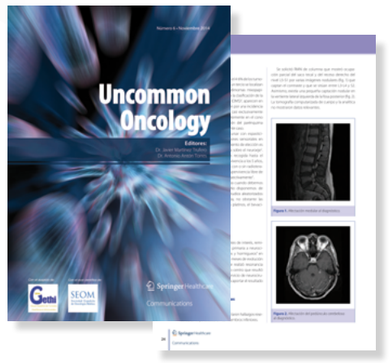
Scientific dissemination

JOURNALS

Uncommon Oncology

The journal *Uncommon Oncology*, sponsored by GETHI, was presented at the "Oncology Discussion Forum 2012" as a dissemination tool for rare tumours with infrequent evolution.

Edited by Dr. Javier Martínez Trufero and Dr. Antonio Antón Torres, it includes review articles and clinical case studies on the treatment applied and its results. A total of seven issues of *Uncommon Oncology* have been published to date.



BOOKS AND MANUALS

Guidelines for the therapeutic management of Caprelsa in advanced medullary thyroid cancer

The aim of this guide is to summarise the information published on the adverse effects associated with Vandetanib therapy in advanced medullary thyroid cancer, and to provide doctors with practical guidelines regarding education, monitoring and management of the toxicities induced in patients undergoing this treatment.

Treatise on Rare Tumours

The number of rare tumours diagnosed is expected to continue to increase over the coming years. It is therefore essential to have a specific knowledge of the physiology of the organs in which they occur. This treatise reflects the need to include in a single work the particularities of the treatment of the main infrequent neoplasms.

GETHI monograph of Paraneoplastic Syndromes

Paraneoplastic Syndromes occur before or during the development of the neoplasm. When they appear during the development stage, both clinical monitoring and the detection of proteins or antibodies can be used as tumour markers for the course of the primary neoplasm. In this monograph, GETHI promotes a review of these processes carried out by specialists involved in the diagnosis and monitoring of the same.

SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES

- Garcia-Donas J, Hurtado A, García-Casado Z, Albareda J, López-Guerrero JA, Alemany I, Grande E, Camara JC, Hernando S. **Cytochrome P17 Inhibition With Ketoconazole As Treatment for Advanced Granulosa Cell Ovarian Tumor.** J Clin Oncol. 2013 Apr 1; 31(10):e165-6
- Grande E, Capdevila J, Díez JJ, Longo F, Carrato A. **A significant response to sunitinib in a patient with anaplastic thyroid carcinoma.** J Res Med Sci. 2013 Jul; 18(7):623-5
- Grande E, Kreissl MC, Filetti S, Newbold K, Reinisch W, Robert C, Schlumberger M, Tolstrup LK, Zamorano JL, Capdevila J. **Vandetanib in advanced medullary thyroid cancer: review of adverse event management strategies.** Adv Ther. 2013 Nov; 30(11):945-66
- Gatta G, Mallone S, van der Zwan JM, Trama A, Siesling S, Capocaccia R; EUROCARE Working Group. **Cancer prevalence estimates in Europe at the beginning of 2000.** Ann Oncol. 2013 Jun; 24(6):1660-6
- Prieto I, Pérez de la Fuente T, Medina S, Castelo B, Sobrino B, Fortes J, Esteban D, Cassinello F, Jover R, Rodríguez N. **Merkel cell carcinoma: an algorithm for multidisciplinary management and decision-making.** Critical Reviews in Oncology/Hematology (in press)

Scientific dissemination

COMMUNICATION AT CONFERENCES

ASCO 2014 (Abstract #130461)

- García-Donas, J. Ketoconazole as inhibitor of the enzyme CYP17 in locally advanced or disseminated granulosa cell tumors of the ovary. The GreKo I study (gethi 11-03).

POSTER SESSIONS

- ASCO 2014

  Hurtado Nuño, A. **Open-label phase II clinical trial of Orteronel (TAK-700) in metastatic or advanced nonresectable granulosa cell ovarian tumors: The GreKo II study.**

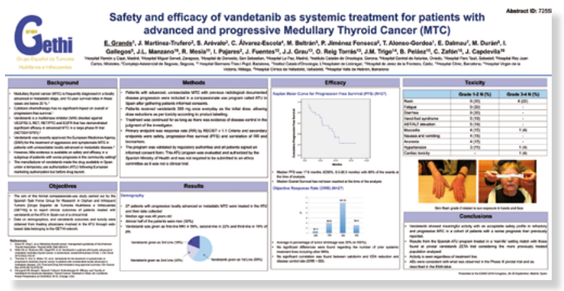
  Citation: J Clin Oncol 32:5s, 2014 (suppl; abstr TPS5626)

- ESMO 2014 (Abstract #7255)

  Grande, E. **Safety and efficacy of Vandetanib as systemic treatment for patients with advanced and progressive Medullary Thyroid Cancer (MTC).**

- SEOM XIV National Medical Oncology Meeting 2014 (Poster Session 188-PD).

  Hurtado Nuño, A. **Open phase II study of Ketoconazole as inhibitor of the enzyme CYP17 in locally advanced or disseminated granulosa-cell tumours of the ovary. GreKo study.**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Safety and efficacy of vandetanib as systemic treatment for patients with advanced and progressive Medullary Thyroid Cancer (MTC)

E. Grande[1], J. Martínez-Trufero[2], S. Arévalo[3], C. Álvarez-Escolá[4], M. Beltrán[5], P. Jiménez Fonseca[6], T. Alonso-Gordoa[7], E. Dalmau[8], M. Durán[9], I. Gallegos[10], J.L. Manzano[10], R. Mesía[11], I. Pajares[2], J. Fuentes[12], J.J. Grau[13], O. Reig Torras[14], J.M. Trigo[15], B. Peláez[16], C. Zafón[17], J. Capdevila[18]

Background

Methods

Efficacy

Toxicity

Objectives

Results

Conclusions

Training

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Medullary Thyroid Cancer Expert Meeting

With the aim of discussing and establishing an international multidisciplinary consensus on the treatment of patients with advanced medullary thyroid cancer, in October 2012 GETHI organised the "**Medullary Thyroid Cancer Expert Meeting**", which brought together specialists from different disciplines.

Symposium of Rare Tumours: Practical concepts

Although multidisciplinary teams are usual in Spain's hospitals, this situation is truly exceptional when it comes to rare tumours.

The symposium involved the creation of a meeting point for professionals interested in orphan and infrequent tumours. The flow of information generated through the exchange of experiences has, without a doubt, contributed to unifying the treatment criteria for these neoplasms.

GETHI After ASCO 2014

Every medical oncology professional is aware of the importance of the meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), which annually presents the main milestones in cancer research.

In 2014, GETHI organised this seminar to update knowledge on the new developments presented at ASCO with regard to rare tumours. The seminar addressed rare tumour specialities and over 200 abstracts were received.

Training

RESEARCH GRANTS

In collaboration with the Fundación Consorcio Hospital Provincial de Castellón, in 2013 the Group established their first grant programme "GETHI – Ramón de las Peñas de Ayuda a la Investigación en Tumours Huérfanos e Infrecuentes".

The grant programme, a second edition of which has been convened for 2015, was created as part of the Group's strategy to promote the development of research projects that benefit the progress of clinical therapy and increase knowledge about these tumours.

INTERVIEW

Dra. Mª Ángeles Vaz

Winner of the GETHI-Ramón de las Peñas 2013 grant

"Without GETHI's help, a study like this would have been very difficult to carry out."

Q. In general terms, what is the aim and raison d'être of your project?

We study which mechanisms are involved in the underlying molecular changes in oligodendroglial tumours and we look for avenues for the development of new drugs.

Q. How has the GETHI grant helped the development of the project?

Research funding is key to scientific advances in these types of tumours. Without GETHI's help, a study like this would have been very difficult to carry out.

Q. In your opinion, what role can GETHI play in Spanish oncology?

The Group obviously plays a fundamental role in the development of research projects, in promoting training and in the dissemination of information about rare tumours. I think that it has established a very important meeting point for the different specialists who work in this field.

APPS

MTC

Medullary thyroid cancer is responsible for 13.4% of deaths caused by this type of tumour. For this reason, GETHI believes it essential to provide these treatment guidelines in app format, explaining the general guidelines to follow when managing MTC and using Vandetanib as a treatment.

Treatise on Rare Tumours

The consensus document drawn up by the Group served as a basis for the creation of this app, which offers in a quick and intuitive way the keys for better understanding the particularities involved in treating rare tumours.

GIST

This application offers a protocol for the treatment of gastrointestinal stromal tumours (GIST). These tumours are rare cancers that originate from the Cajal cells, which are the cells responsible for initiating the rhythmic movement that pushes food through the digestive tract.

Communication

Sharing our challenges, hopes and achievements via the different communication channels has opened up new doors for us to a world of possibilities, a world in which, thanks to the collaboration of all those who believe in us and support our work, we are growing day by day and gaining ground on rare tumours.

WEBSITE

On the GETHI website (www.gethi.org) we provide information about the Group and its training, social and research activities, as well as resources and useful tools for patients or professionals, such as treatment guidelines and apps.

In the private area of the website, GETHI members can also access the registries, in which they can share and consult information about cases of rare tumours

SOCIAL NETWORKS

GETHI is well aware of the importance of social networks for dissemination and discussion forums and therefore has a Twitter account: **@GrupoGethi**. To date, the Group has published 3,800 tweets and has more than 4,900 followers.

GETHI IN THE MEDIA

Do you want to be a part of GETHI?

Please contact us at **info@gethi.org**

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Grupo Español de Tumores Huérfanos e Infrecuentes