Value of Cancer Medicines

Innovative cancer medicines developed by biopharmaceutical research companies have led to an increase in patient survival rates and higher life expectancy around the world. Learn about the current human and economic impact that cancer imposes on the U.S., and the progress that is being made toward fighting cancer and understanding the value of its therapies.

Human & Economic Impact

The Burden of Cancer
In 2016, more than 1.7 million new cancer cases are expected to be diagnosed, and an estimated 595,690 people are expected to die of cancer.
Source: American Cancer Society

Spending on Cancer Medicines
Spending on cancer medicines represents about 1% of overall health care spending.
Source: IMS Institute for Healthcare Informatics

Major Gains in the Fight Against Cancer: Falling Death Rates
The cancer death rate has fallen 23% from its peak in 1991, in large part due to medicines.
Source: National Cancer Institute

Our Society as a Whole Benefits from Medical Progress

Major Gains in Life Expectancy
More than 23 million years of collective life have been saved through cancer treatment advances between 1988 and 2000.
Source: Din Lakdawala et al.

Savings in Overall Health Care Costs
The value of cancer treatment between 1988 and 2000 amounted to $1.9 trillion based on improved productivity, extended life, and other factors.
Source: Din Lakdawala et al.

Greater Understanding = Greater Progress
100 years ago leukemia and lymphoma were considered to be one disease but today the two encompass about 100 individual diseases that scientists are tackling with greater precision.

Progress in the Fight

Major Gains in the Fight Against Cancer: Benefiting our Youth
Survival rates for childhood cancers have increased 43% over the last several decades.
Source: American Cancer Society

The Future is Bright

5-Year Survival is Increasing for Many Types of Cancer
The chances that a cancer patient will live 5 years or more has increased by 41% across all cancers.
Source: American Cancer Society

Thousands of Novel Treatments on the Horizon
73% of cancer medicines in the pipeline have the potential to be personalized medicines.
Source: Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development