



What is the value of surgical oncology as part of cancer care?

Surgical oncology is critical to ensure high quality cancer care

80%

of cancer patients will require surgical intervention during the course of their disease

45m

surgical procedures will be needed worldwide per year by **2030**

<25%

of cancer patients actually receive safe, affordable or timely surgery across the globe



Cancers amenable to surgery are estimated to cause

2.7million
years of life

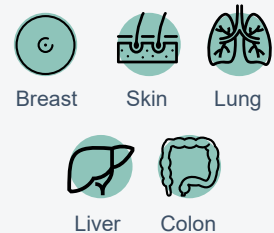
lost to disability worldwide

Surgical oncology has multiple roles in cancer patients

Surgical resection remains the best chance of cure for solid cancers when diagnosed early

- Reduces the risk of getting cancer as part of hereditary syndromes
- Diagnoses and stages cancer
- Treats locally advanced cancer & metastatic disease
- Preserves quality of life and palliates symptoms

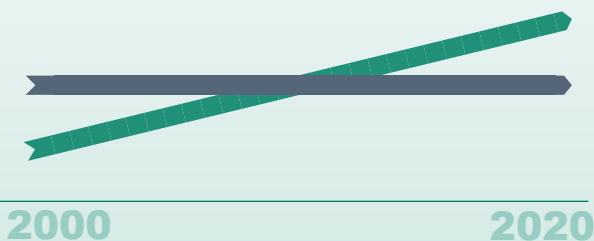
Surgical oncology can cure the most prevalent and deadly cancers, including:



Surgical oncology is cost-effective

For the majority of non-metastasised solid tumours, surgery is the most cost-effective treatment with the highest value for money

■ COSTS OF CANCER SURGERY
■ COSTS OF SYSTEMIC THERAPY



Surgical oncology is keeping pace with innovation

Research is continuing to refine surgical oncology technologies, techniques and processes to allow more patients to benefit from effective, safe, minimally invasive and cost-effective treatment



Innovations such as robotics, functional imaging and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are opening new horizons to enhance cancer surgery



Unlocking the potential of surgical oncology in Europe: ESSO's recommendations

1 Recognise surgical oncology as a specialty and harmonise education across Europe



Surgical oncology should be recognised as a specialist discipline in the EU



Access to high-quality and uniform training developed and delivered by surgical oncology societies should be ensured on a country-specific basis



Continuous medical education and certification of surgical oncologists should be standard practice



The recognition of surgical oncology as a specialty and the harmonisation of training across Europe would help:



Reduce disparities in qualifications, practices and outcomes



Address inequalities in access to high-quality cancer care

2 Support research and innovation in surgical oncology



Research efforts and funds should be redirected to local treatment of non metastatic disease, which will have a significant impact on survival



Innovation in surgical techniques, which allow preservation of function and quality of life in cancer patients, should be developed and evaluated



Strong involvement of surgical oncologists in developing optimal multimodal treatment regimens should be fostered

Despite its potential to cure, surgical oncology research remains **highly underfunded** compared with trials led by the pharmaceutical industry



3 Promote the role of surgical oncology in multidisciplinary cancer care



Multidisciplinary care, of which surgical oncology is an integral component, should be provided consistently to all cancer patients in Europe



Surgical oncologists should lead multidisciplinary teams and coordinate the care of patients for a majority of solid tumours



Certification and accreditation of surgical oncologists and multidisciplinary cancer units across the EU should be harmonised to ensure a uniformly high level of care