

# Critical appraisal of clinical practice guidelines for treatment of Pancreatic Cancer Based on the Global Disease Burden

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**Background:** Pancreatic cancer is the eighth most common reason for cancer-related death worldwide. Many countries either lack appropriate clinical practice guidelines for the treatment or the quality of their guidelines has never been evaluated.

**Objectives:** The main objective of our work was to identify published pancreatic cancer guidelines and evaluate the burden and treatment guidelines of pancreatic cancer.

**Methods:** Literatures concerning pancreatic cancer guidelines were identified through PUBMED, National Guidelines Clearinghouse and the Guidelines International Network. Appraisal of Guidelines for Research and Evaluation (AGREE) were applied to assess the methodological quality of the guidelines.

**Results:** A total of 14 relevant guidelines published from 2001 to 2012 were identified, involving four continents(Asia, Europe, North America, Oceania), six counties, four international organizations. According to the AGREE instrument, two guidelines can be strongly recommended, 11 with provisos and alterations while one guidelines cannot be recommended for adaptation due to poor methodological quality. There were only 2 domains, “Scope and Purpose” and “Clarity of Presentations”, getting high average scores (more than 60%) among all guidelines. Their subjects of 14 guidelines covered 6 treatment categories: Chemotherapy, surgery, radiotherapy, support therapy, radiotherapy and interventional therapy. Guidelines recommended the most Categories in Asian.

**Conclusion:** The overall methodological quality of pancreatic cancer treatment guidelines is suboptimal in different countries or regions. The guidelines mainly focused on the treatment of Chemotherapy, surgery, radiotherapy and support therapy. Interventional and Traditional Chinese Medicine therapy were the most recommended agents in china guidelines unresectable pancreatic cancer.

**Key words:** pancreatic cancer; guidelines;