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The Role of Real World Evidence in Oncology: Opportunities, Results and Limitations

Guest Editor:

Soo Jin Seung
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Toronto, ON, Canada

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Message from the Guest Editor

Real-world evidence has been a popular phrase for the last 10 years, but could be considered the re-branding of clinical data that does not meet the typical randomized phase III study criteria often included in HTA submissions. Variations in patient populations in oncology are another reason why RWE is gaining prominence with its ability to address uncertainty and data gaps and is being accepted by decision-makers. Access and the use of cancer registries and linkages to administrative databases is flourishing, resulting in the demand for more clinical, quality of life and utility data outside the confines of a clinical trial and more representative healthcare practices. However, there are still challenges faced, from privacy and legal restrictions to lack of consensus by regulatory bodies in terms of establishing RWE guidelines. The goals are to publish research in any oncology indication that uses real-world data to determine outcomes, promote young investigators, and to highlight similarities and difference between regions and countries.