

IMMUNOTHERAPIES & STABILITY: A COSTLY RACE AGAINST TIME

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INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVE

Immunotherapies have revolutionized oncology care, however their increasing use leads to considerable health expenses.

In a hospital subcontracting the activity of reconstitution of anti-cancer drugs, the prescription is made 48 hours in advance.

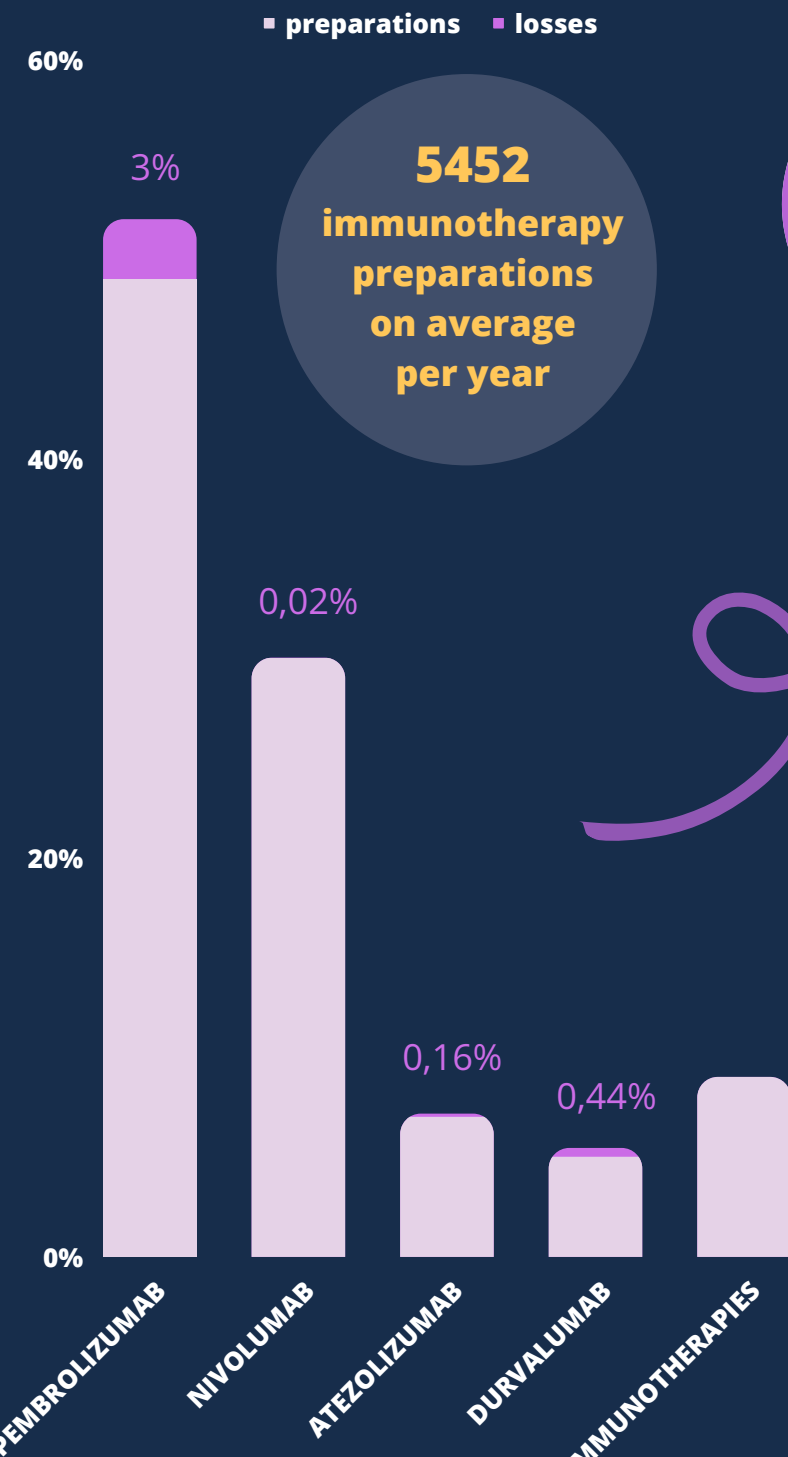
Assesment of the impact of the stability of immunotherapy bags on losses and associated costs

MATERIAL & METHODS

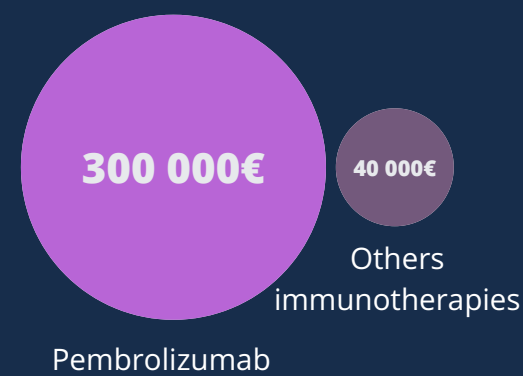
- Retrospective analysis was carried out on the prescriptions of immunotherapies in oncology departments between January 2020 and April 2023.
- Comparison of most commonly prescribed were compared according to the criteria: number of bags prepared, bags returned due to non-administration, bags destroyed due to expiry,
- Studies of stability data from the Summary of Product Characteristics.
- Calculation of costs associated with the losses of the destroyed bags.

RESULTS

Percentage distribution of prepared immunotherapies and their losses

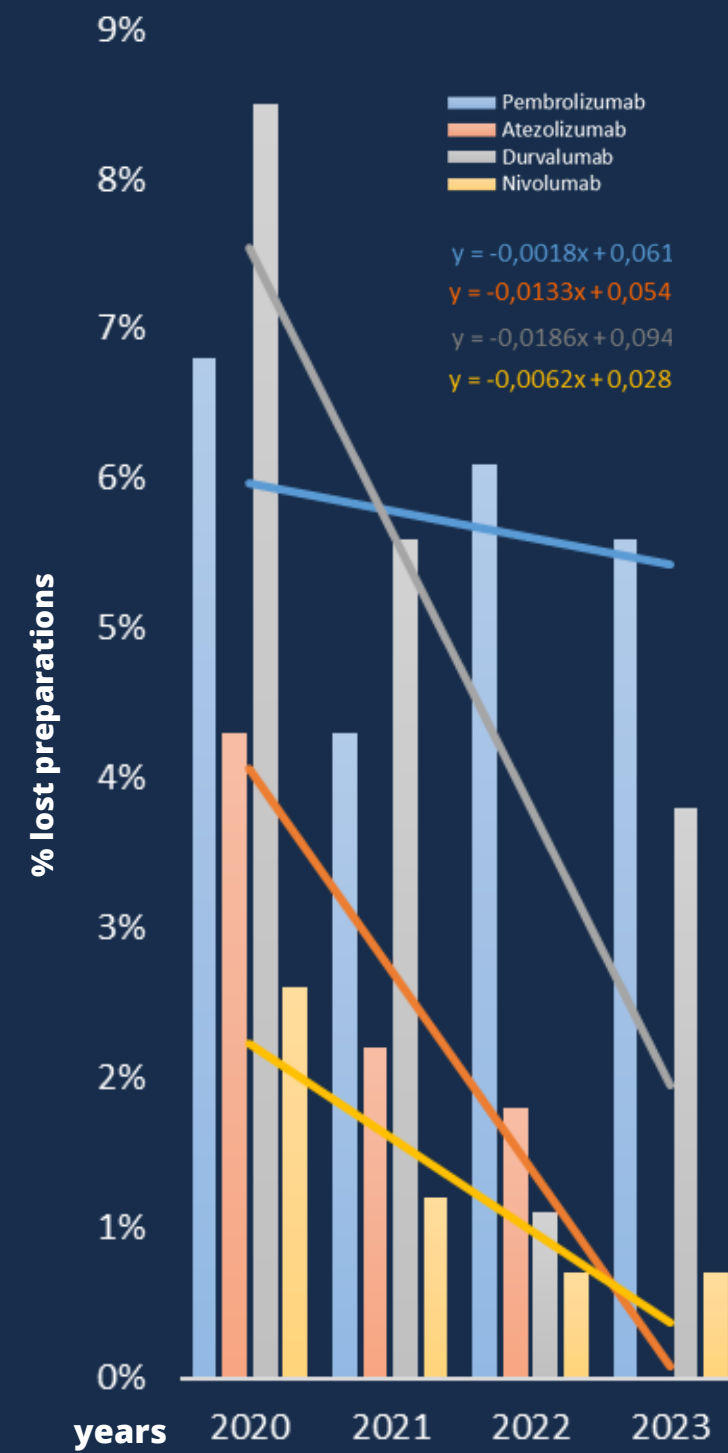


Average annual costs associated with losses

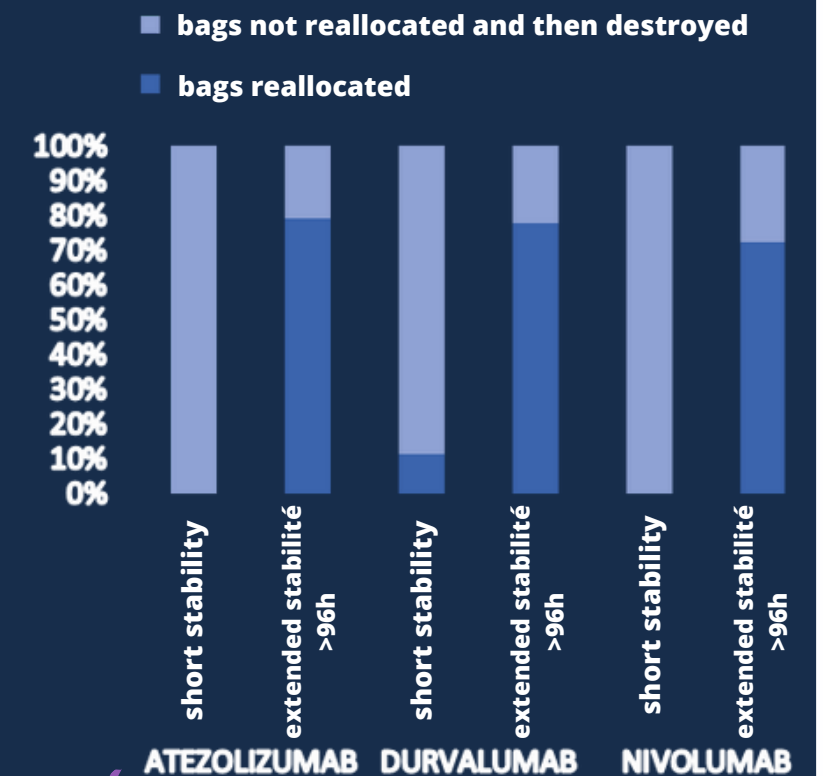


5452 immunotherapy preparations on average per year

Trend curve for the rate of annual lost bags



Percentage distribution of unadministered bags based on stability



Impact of increasing stability on the reallocation of immunotherapy bags

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Pembrolizumab stands out with a high rate of destroyed bags due to its short duration of stability. Extending stability is fundamental to provide durable and economically viable solutions, especially for pembrolizumab, which has currently the largest cost among health insurance drugs.

It is therefore imperative that pharmaceutical companies finance stability studies.