

THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF THE STANDARDS, OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (SORS) FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF PAIN IN CANCER PATIENTS

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Background: Since 1993 the French Federation of Comprehensive Cancer Centers (FNCLCC) has been running the SORS project. The primary objective of this project is to develop clinical practice guidelines. A first version of the guideline for the management of pain was published in 1996. The validity of these recommendations is dependant on the up-to-date nature of the evidence analysed. **Objective:** The aim of this project was to update the guideline emphasising specific questions. **Methods:** The main steps of the process were : 1) Identification of specific questions 2) Search for the evidence 3) Critical appraisal of the evidence 4) Drafting of the recommendations 5) Validation of the recommendations. **Results:** About the chapter dealing with the medical treatment of pain, 14 questions were identified, 1011 articles were found and 372 articles were considered as relevant. Evidences were assessed with an instrument specifically designed. Each text corresponding with a question was drafted by two experts and reviewed by the whole group. **Discussion:** The use of the appraisal instrument was difficult due to the low level of evidence. Experts opinions are frequent. **Conclusions:** The updated chapter will be published on electronic and paper supports. The level of evidence in the field of pain treatment assessment must improve.