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Title: The availability of essential cancer medication: An analysis of national formularies

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**Title:** The Availability of Essential Cancer Medication: An Analysis of National Formularies

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**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Concordance between national formularies and the cancer EML section was computed.
- Most LMICs had under 50% concordance with the cancer section of the EML.
- Concordance was positively associated with GDP, health expenditures, and HDI.
- Concordance was positively associated with prevalence of overweight and obesity.
- Policymakers may not be prioritizing access to essential cancer medications.

**ABSTRACT**

**Objective:** Compared to most other diseases, the total burden of common cancers is rapidly increasing in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The World Health Organization (WHO) publishes the Essential Medicines List, which provides guidance to countries in selecting which cancer medications should be prioritized for general public access. Countries commonly have formularies which are representative of the specific medications that the national government has prioritized for its populations.

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