Background and importance Oral anticancer agents (OAA) are frequently used in oncology practice. Drug interactions involving OAA are of great concern as they can cause an altered safety or efficacy profile for cancer treatments.

Aim and objectives To estimate the prevalence of potential drug interactions in cancer patients to justify the implementation of preventive actions to optimise the effectiveness and efficiency of cancer management, in a context where the relevance of care is a public health issue.

Material and methods Data on drugs used for comorbidities, OAA, over-the-counter (OTC) drugs and herbal supplements were collected through a structured interview with the patient, a review of medical records and a call to the dispensing pharmacist. Potential drug interactions involving OAA were detected during the primary prescribing process using the databases Lexicomp and Micromedex.

Results 51 patients were included in the study. The median age of patients was 70 years. We identified 26 potentially clinically significant interactions (PCSI) in 24 patients (47%). Of the PCSI detected, 17.4% were assessed by both sources as major interactions and 8.7% as moderate interactions. The PCSI involving OAA that interacted the most were anagrelide (19.2%), capecitabine (15.4%) and lenalidomide (11.5%). We observed that 30.8% of PCSI resulted in an altered efficacy profile of the OAA.

Conclusion and relevance This study highlighted environmental contamination with a low exposure of operators limited to the preparation laboratory, but higher contamination levels were found on the chest and forearm of the off-field operator. Improper transport of a contaminated drug basket to a clean zone is critical. This assessment allowed us to review and update our decontamination procedure, confirmed by the subsequent environmental control. A monitoring schedule for the environment and health workers and specific training courses for the cleaning teams were proposed.

REFERENCES AND/OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Conflict of interest No conflict of interest