



The right dose in chemotherapy



Is the goal of an innovative instrument created thanks to a European project



Silke Krol

One of the basic problems for those treating with chemotherapy is linked with the dosage of the medicine: a doctor mainly goes by the height and weight of the patients, but is unable to quantify their metabolism, so that once therapy has begun they can no longer control the medicine in the blood. As a remedy to this problem there is a European project, “DiaChemo”, being developed under the guidance of the Istituto Tumori Giovanni Paolo II cancer institute at the Bari hospital, together with a European partnership comprising two hospitals, two industrial partners, a professional Eu project management Agency and three research institutes. “The basic idea from where we started is to prepare a prototype of an instrument directly measuring the effectiveness of treatment whilst the patient is being given the medicine: a

bit similar to what happens with the instrument to measure glucose for those suffering from diabetes - explains Silke Krol, the “Dia-Chemo” coordinator -. In this way the doctor can control the actual concentration in order to stay between the effective concentration and the toxic concentration and also change the dosage of the medicines during treatment”. Begun two years ago and now at the halfway mark, the teamwork has, for the time being, produced two different prototypes, currently at the last stages for forwarding to the partner hospitals (one in Aviano, Italia and one in Munster, Germany). “We now await their feedback, from where to understand how the instrument can be optimized – ends Krol -. The idea is to optimize the prototypes ready to be put on the market in a follow-up project.