

IMPROVING CARE OF EARLY BREAST CANCER (EBC) PATIENTS IN EUROPE

Investigators
Meeting

Vienna, AT
12 March 2025



DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF A Patient Decision Aid FOR Early BC: a new tool to promote patients' empowerment in their healthcare process

Prof.ssa Gabriella Pravettoni & Dr Roberto Grasso

Applied Research Division for Cognitive and Psychological Science

European Institute of Oncology (IEO)

State of the Art

PATIENT DECISION AIDS FOR BC PATIENTS:



A tool that might be used by patients either before or within a consultation with physicians



Informing patients about the main treatments for a BC by focusing on both pros and cons of each option



Comparing available treatment options



Eliciting patients' preferences and values about the main treatment options for BC

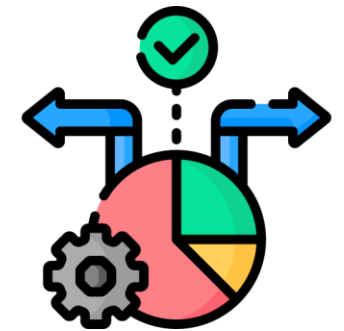


Patient Decision Aid (PDA)

- Providing information
- Clarifying preferences
- Fostering discussion with clinicians

Shared Decision Making

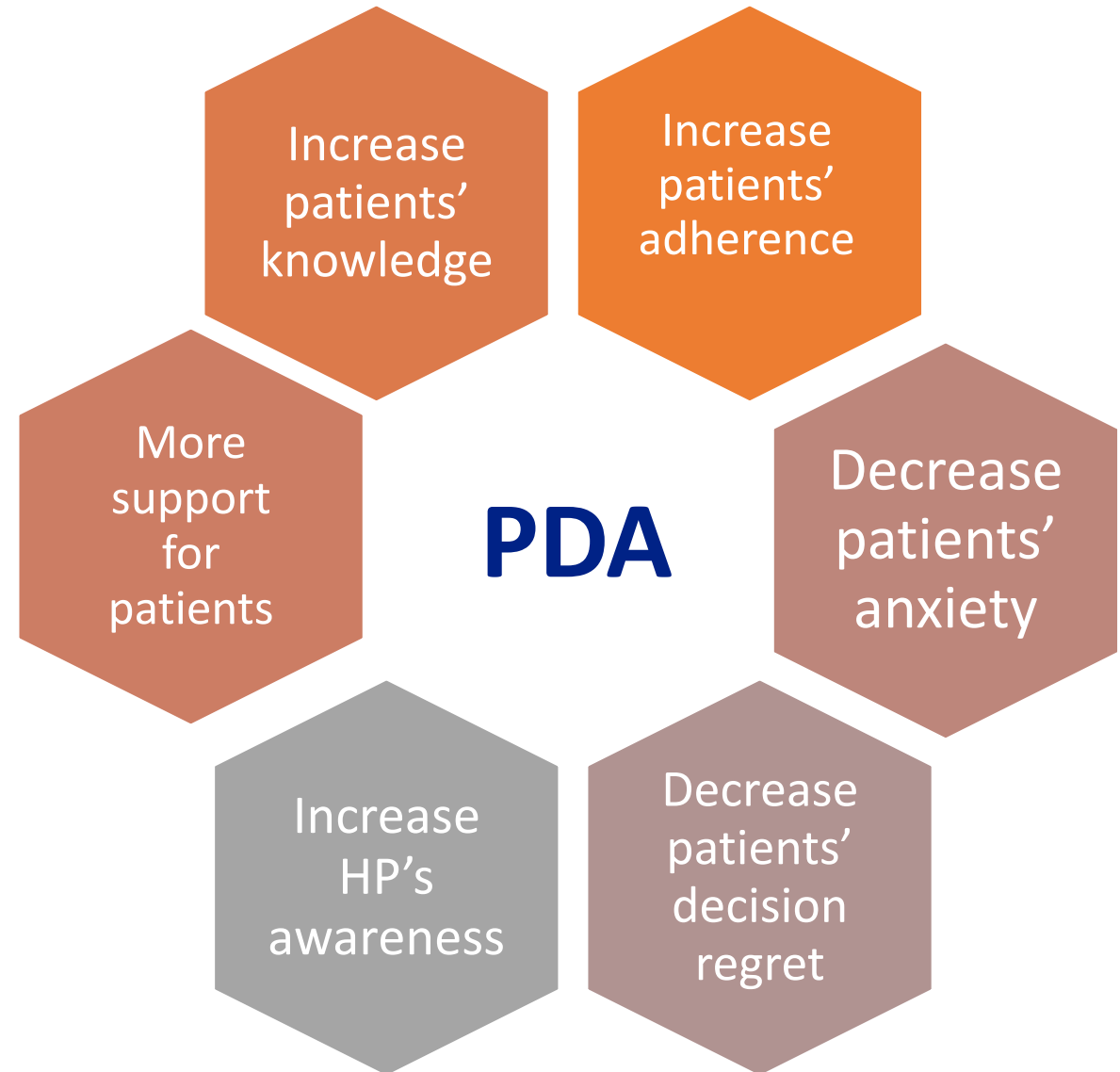
- Simultaneous participation of physicians and patients in all phases of treatment decision-process
- Increased empowerment and engagement in patients and therefore more adherence to treatment
- Aiding physicians during consultations



DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF A Patient Decision Aid FOR Early BC: Aim of the project

Favour the encounter between patients and clinicians by:

- Providing support and knowledge to patients while also decreasing their distress levels;
- Increasing Healthcare Professionals' awareness on patients' needs and preferences



DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF A Patient Decision Aid FOR Early BC: Methodology and timetable

WP1	WP2	WP3	PILOT
Systematic review	1° draft is sent to 20 patients	2° draft sent to 30 patients	Prospective study
Semi-structured interviews with 20 patients	Semi-structured interviews QUALITATIVE MEASURES	Questionnaires: Attrakdiff, SUS, e-heals, 38-item study-specific QUANTITATIVE MEASURES	N= 150; Randomly assigned to Control Group and Experimental Group
Semi-structured interviews with 30 physicians			Questionnaires: SDM; QLQ23; QLQ30; STAI; PH9; Distress Thermometer (at T0, T1, T2)

1° DRAFT

2° DRAFT

3° DRAFT

6 months

12 months

21 months

September 2024

August 2026

DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF A Patient Decision Aid FOR Early BC: Status of the project

WP1

Systematic review

The impact of decision tools in treatment decision-making for women with early-stage breast cancer: A systematic review

Serena Sdinami, Lorenzo Conti, Benedetta Capetti, Valeria Sebri, Roberto Grasso, Paola Zagami, Carmen Criscitiello, Giuseppe Curigliano, Gabriella Pravettoni

Submitted at BMC Journal – Medical informatics and Decision-Making



Aim

Gather as much information as possible regarding current, available PDAs, what is considered to be useful and acceptable by both patients and healthcare professionals

Methods

26 included studies:

- Different study designs
- Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods outcomes
- Lower Socio-Economic Status and lower health literacy populations

6 months

September 2024

March 2025

DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF A Patient Decision Aid FOR Early BC: Status of the project

WP1

Systematic review



The impact of decision tools in treatment decision-making for women with early-stage breast cancer: A systematic review

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Results



PDA has positive impact on:

1. Providing information (knowledge scores increased)
2. Improving the quality of decision-making process and satisfaction
3. Not increasing levels of depression and/or anxiety in patients
4. Lower SES/health literacy populations

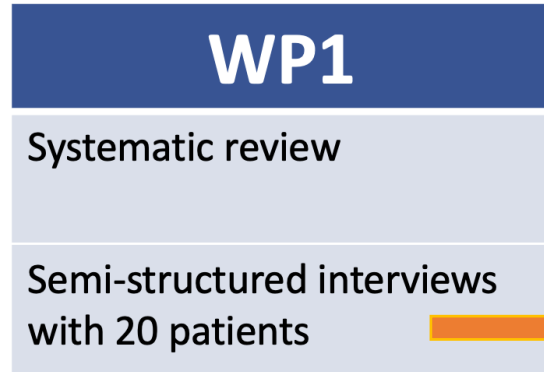
Barriers

Challenges of PDA development:

1. Easy-to-use PDA for HP professionals
2. Implementation issues at the national and international level

DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF A Patient Decision Aid FOR Early BC:

Status of the project



Age Range: from 25 to 60 years old

Education level: at least bachelor degree

Investigated areas:

- Socio-demographic information
- Diagnosis and treatment choice
- Consultations with physicians: did the patient experience SDM?
- Received social support (family, friends, caregivers)

6 months



September 2024

March 2025

DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF A Patient Decision Aid FOR Early BC: Status of the project

WP1

Systematic review

Semi-structured interviews
with 20 patients



Age Range: from 25 to 60 years old

Education level: at least bachelor degree

Outcomes:

- Difficulty absorbing information during consultations due to high anxiety levels;
- Difficulty communicating with physicians due to time constraints and/or lack of medical knowledge;
- Difficulties with managing side effects of treatments at home;
- Wanting to reach out to other patients and experiences;
- Difficulty explaining their journey to caregivers, family and close friends.

6 months

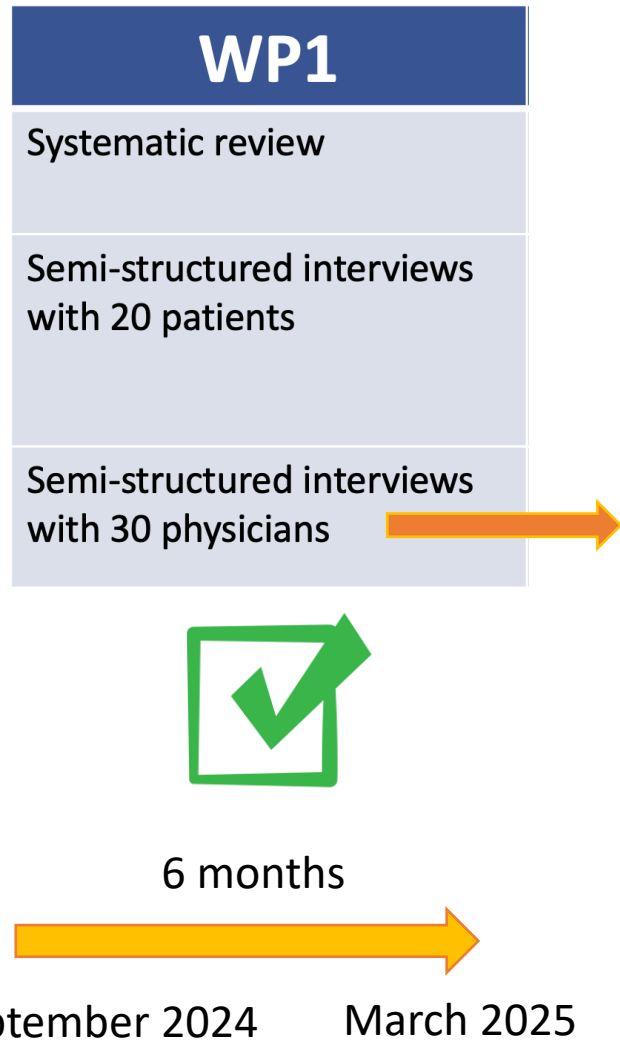


September 2024

March 2025

DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF A Patient Decision Aid FOR Early BC:

Status of the project



Interviews with: Oncologists, Radiologists, Radiotherapists, Surgeons

Investigated areas:

- Socio-demographic information;
- Clinical information regarding breast cancer, staging, diagnosis and treatments available;
- Medical consultations: how does a standard consultation take place? (eg. does it follow a script or is it adapted to the individual physicians are talking to?)
- What are the medical concepts that most patients struggle to understand?
- «Would you use a PDA during your consultations? Do you foresee any implementation issues?»

DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF A Patient Decision Aid FOR Early BC: Status of the project

WP1

Systematic review

Semi-structured interviews
with 20 patients

Semi-structured interviews
with 30 physicians



6 months

September 2024

March 2025

Oncologists:

- Difficulty grouping BCs in clear treatment categories, also due to contrasting literature results;

Radiologists:

- Difficulty for the patients to fully comprehend the «next steps» after having found a mass on the breast;

Surgeons:

- Difficulties in choosing between breast conserving surgery and mastectomy (when possible);

Radiotherapists:

- Misconceptions about the treatment and side effects (radioactivity!);

Difficulties in efficiently answering to patients' email and questions in a timely manner due to work overload → BURDEN ON HP

DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF A Patient Decision Aid FOR Early BC: Status of the project

WP1

Systematic review

Semi-structured interviews
with 20 patients

Semi-structured interviews
with 30 physicians

Starting from the outcomes of the WP1 we developed a first draft of the PDA.

1. Meets both Healthcare Professionals and patients' needs
2. Assesses the barriers emerged during our systematic review

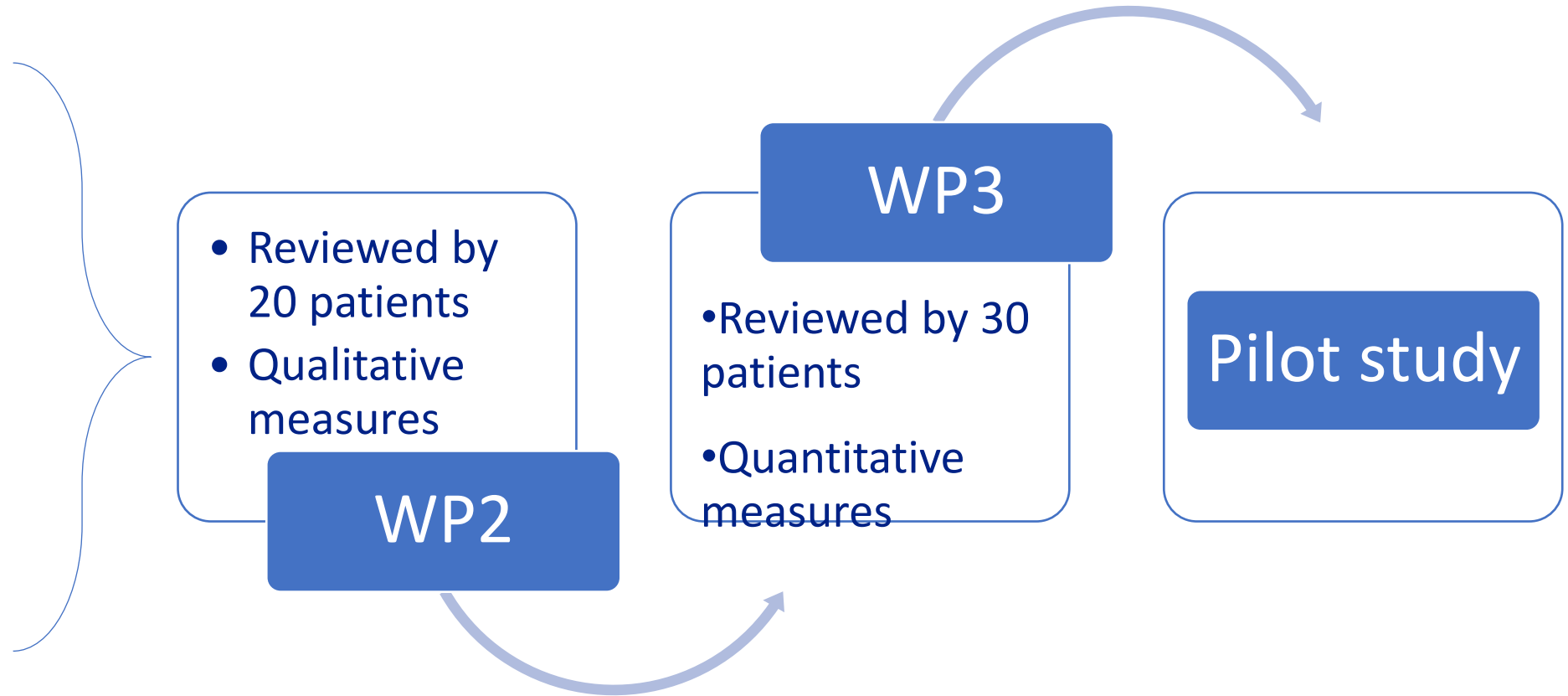
1° DRAFT



September 2024 March 2025

DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF A Patient Decision Aid FOR Early BC: Status of the project

1° DRAFT



From now on, we will move on to WP2 and WP3, in order to develop a PDA in line with the International Patient decision Aid Standard Collaboration (IPDAS) before starting our Pilot Study.

DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF A Patient Decision Aid FOR Early BC: WHAT NEXT?

PILOT

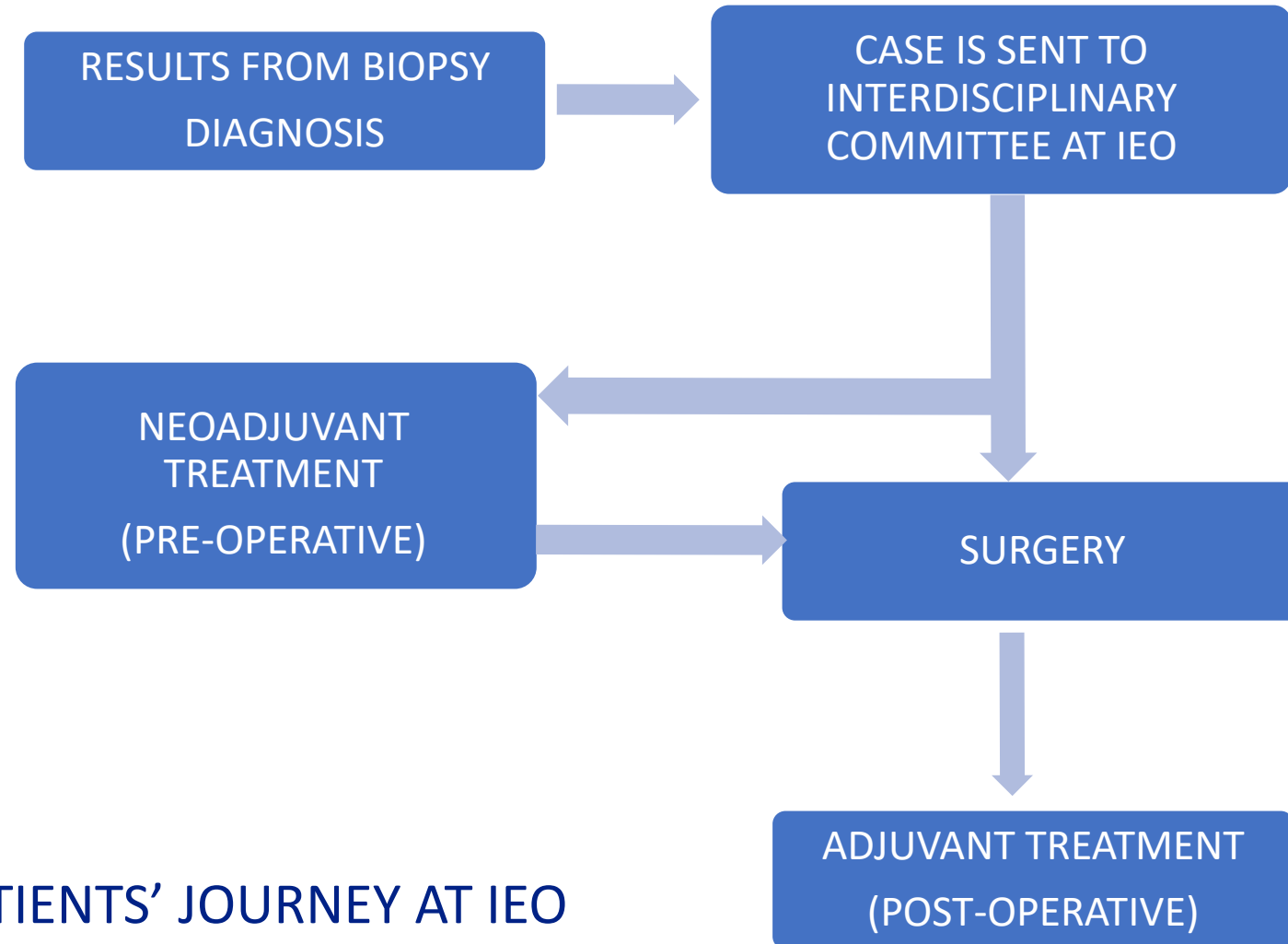
Prospective study

N= 150;

Questionnaires



STANDARD PATIENTS' JOURNEY AT IEO



DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF A Patient Decision Aid FOR Early BC: WHAT NEXT?

PILOT

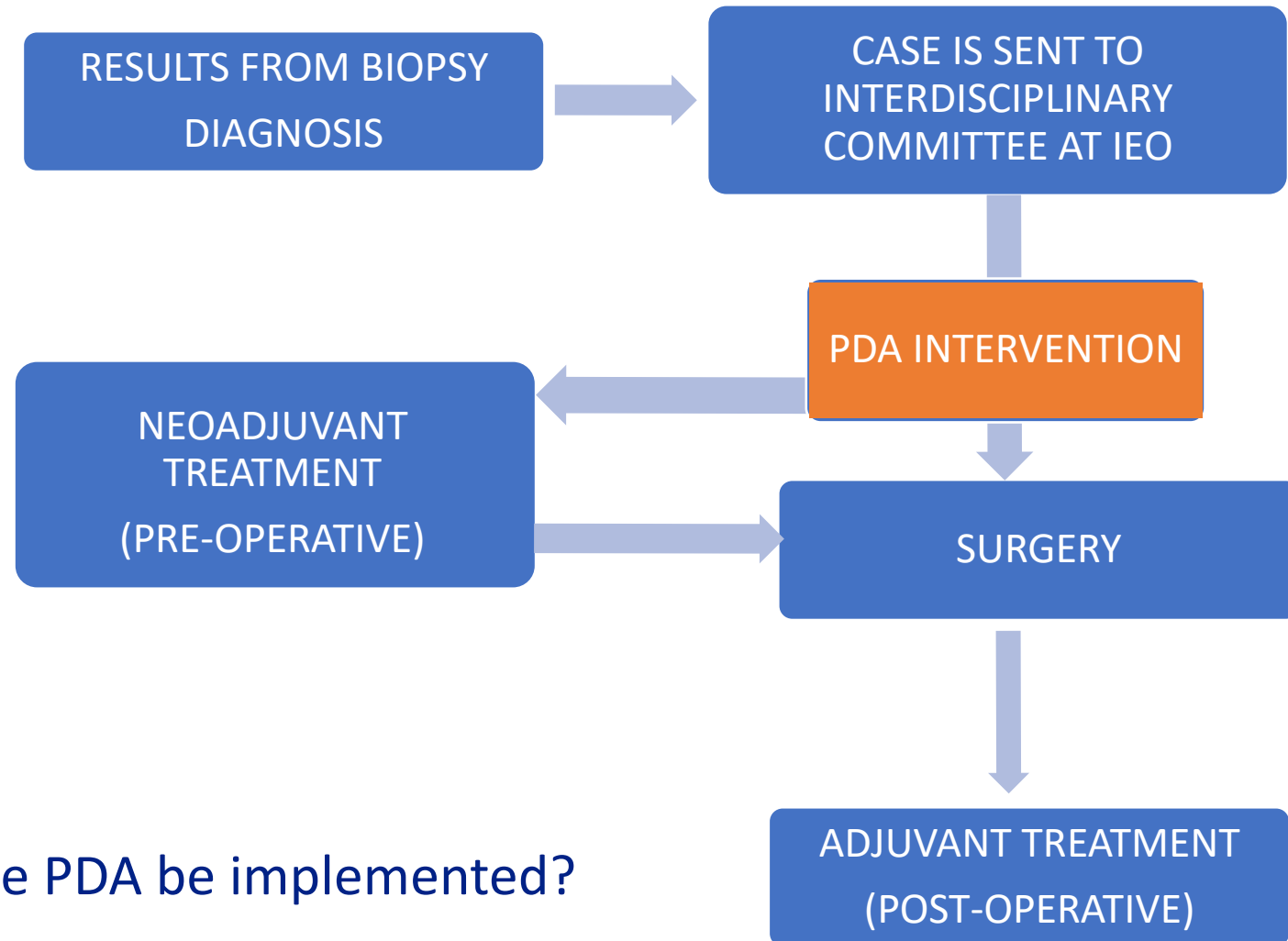
Prospective study

N= 150;

Questionnaires



When will the PDA be implemented?



DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF A Patient Decision Aid FOR Early BC: WHAT NEXT?

PILOT

Prospective study

N= 150;

Questionnaires

RANDOMIZATION INTO CONTROL GROUP OR EXPERIMENTAL GROUP

- N=75 Standard Care (Control Group)
- N=75 Standard Care + PDA (experimental group)

QUESTIONNAIRES

- SDM for shared decision making
- QLQ23 and QLQ30 for Quality of Life in oncological patients
- STAI for state and trait anxiety
- PH9 for depression
- Distress Thermometer for distress

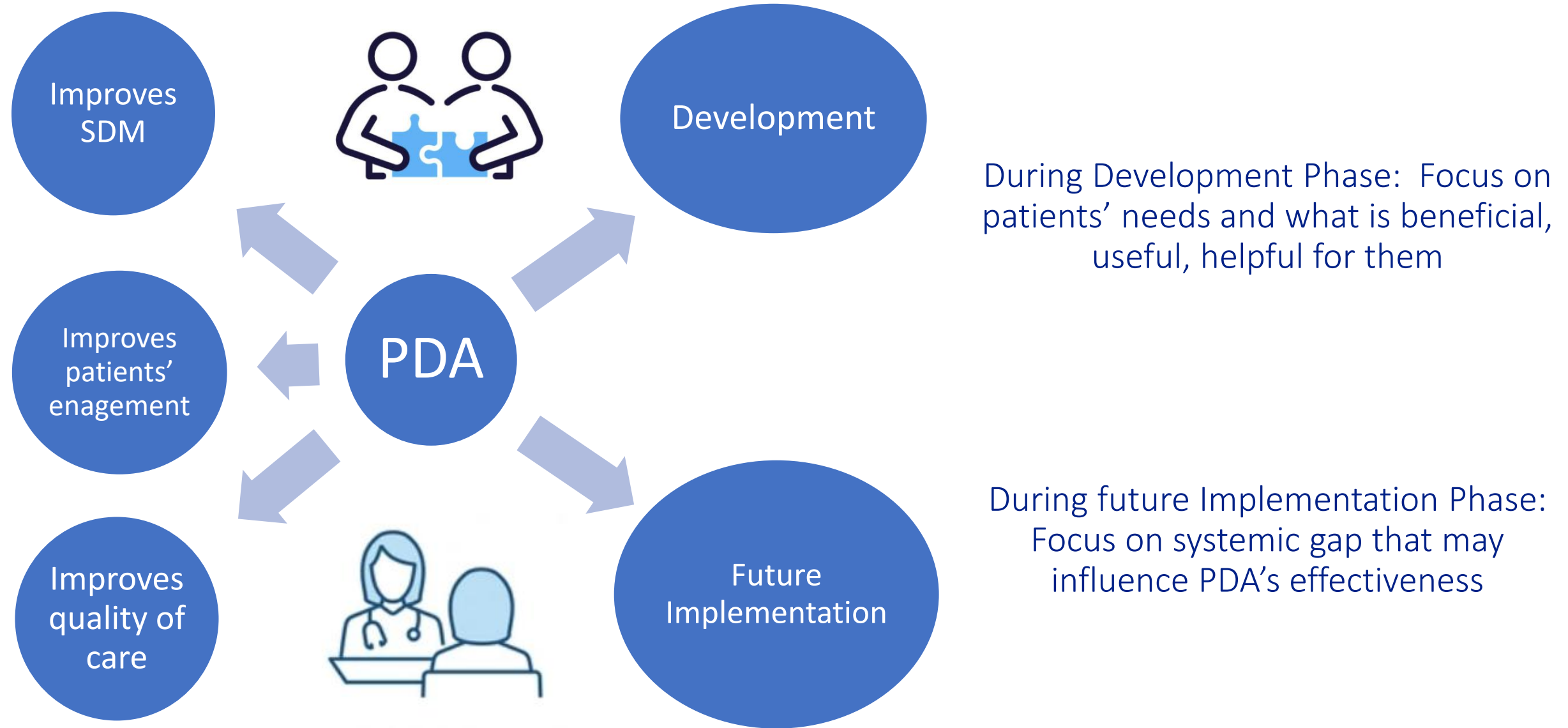
Will be administered at:

- T0: one week after the first medical consultation
- T1: one month after the first medical consultation
- T2: three months after the first medical consultation



DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF A Patient Decision Aid FOR Early BC:

What do we know so far and what needs to be done



Recommended readings

Evidence update of PDA efficacy in oncological decision-making

- https://www.cochrane.org/CD001431/COMMUN_patient-decision-aids-help-people-who-are-facing-decisions-about-health-treatment-or-screening

Sources for PDA content development

- <https://interactiveguidelines.esmo.org/esmo-web-app/toc/index.php?subjectAreaID=8&loadPdf=1>
- <https://www.aiom.it/linee-guida-aiom-2023-carcinoma-mammario-in-stadio-precoc/>

PDA DEVELOPMENT – guidelines (updated)

- <https://decisionaid.ohri.ca/IPDAS/>
- Stacey D, Volk RJ. The International Patient Decision Aid Standards (IPDAS) Collaboration: Evidence Update 2.0. Medical Decision Making. 2021;41(7):729-733. doi:10.1177/0272989X211035681
- Witteman HO, Maki KG, Vaisson G, et al. Systematic Development of Patient Decision Aids: An Update from the IPDAS Collaboration. Medical Decision Making. 2021;41(7):736-754. doi:10.1177/0272989X211014163

IEO Project Team



Roberto Grasso



Gabriella Pravettoni



Giuseppe Curigliano



Serena Sdinami



Valeria Sebri



Paola Zagami



Carmen Criscitiello

Thank you



Sharing Progress in Cancer Care

Via Vincenzo Vela 6, 6500 Bellinzona, Switzerland
info@spcc.net +41 91 8200968

www.spcc.net

www.oncocorner.net