Letter to the Editor

When Expertly Applied, ESMO-MCBS and ASCO Net Health Benefit Scores Usually Agree

Re: Nabhan C, Phillips EG Jr, Feinberg BA. Value in Oncology: It Is in the Eyes of the Beholder. *J Natl Compr Canc Netw* 2019;17(1):2–5.

In their *JNCCN* commentary, “Value in Oncology: It Is in the Eyes of the Beholder,” Nabhan et al¹ cite an editorial that claimed the ASCO Value Framework and ESMO Magnitude of Clinical Benefit Scale (MCBS) were widely discordant and could not agree as to what constitutes a high or low level of benefit.²

In a recently published collaborative project, the developers of the ASCO Value Framework and the ESMO-MCBS compared the results of scores generated for 102 comparative studies.³

This comparative analysis, performed by experts in the use of these scoring systems, demonstrated substantial correlation (Spearman correlation, 0.68) between the scales and highlighted the methodologic

issues driving disparity that can be addressed to further improve concordance.³

The current versions of the ASCO and ESMO value scales, when expertly applied, do have substantial but, as yet, imperfect agreement. Both ESMO and ASCO are committed to rigorous processes of validation in the ongoing development of their respective frameworks, and users can expect improvements as the scales are further refined.

Finally, we believe that these scales can make a substantial contribution to the public health discourse, rational patient care, research design, and physician education.

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3. Cherny NI, de Vries EG, Dafni U, et al. Comparative assessment of clinical benefit using the ESMO-Magnitude of Clinical Benefit Scale version 1.1 and the ASCO Value Framework Net Health Benefit Score. *J Clin Oncol* 2018;37:336–349.

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