

#31 Is a molecular tumor conference a tool for biology-driven potentials in advanced malignancies?

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Introduction

- Molecular sequencing could provide new inputs once guideline-based therapy or routine diagnostics in cancer patients are exhausted.
- The merit of an interdisciplinary Molecular Tumor Conference is still a matter of debate.
- We evaluated the value added by an interdisciplinary Molecular Tumor Conference.

Methods

The interdisciplinary Molecular Tumor Conference of the DKG-certified University Krukenberg Cancer Center Halle (KKH) was evaluated retrospectively.

Time period of the analysis:	February 2019 to April 2020
Conference Frequency:	Monthly
Participating experts:	Molecular Genetics, Pathology, Human Genetics, Hematology, Oncology
Patients:	Patients of internal and external physicians
Indications:	Advanced disease, Exhausted diagnostic & treatment options
Exclusion Criteria:	Approved/standard testing and molecular-driven therapies per national guidelines
Documentation:	Document as part of the digital patient file, communicated to attending physicians

Results

- A total of 38 patients were discussed in 42 tumor conference (Figure 1).
- There were various questions to the molecular tumor conference as shown in Figure 2.
- On average, interdisciplinary Molecular Tumor Conference was the third board per patient after two entity-specific boards.
- Patients with a median age of 57 (range 9-79) years were discussed.
- A median of 3 recommendations per case were made.
- In patients with ambiguous hematological findings, conditions such as erythrocytosis with rare point mutations in the beta-globin-chain were diagnosed.
- Overall, 65% of diagnostic and/or experimental treatment proposals were beyond guideline recommendations, including inclusions in clinical trials.
- The adherence rate was 72%.
- Reasons for noncompliance: Ongoing reimbursement applications, death of patients

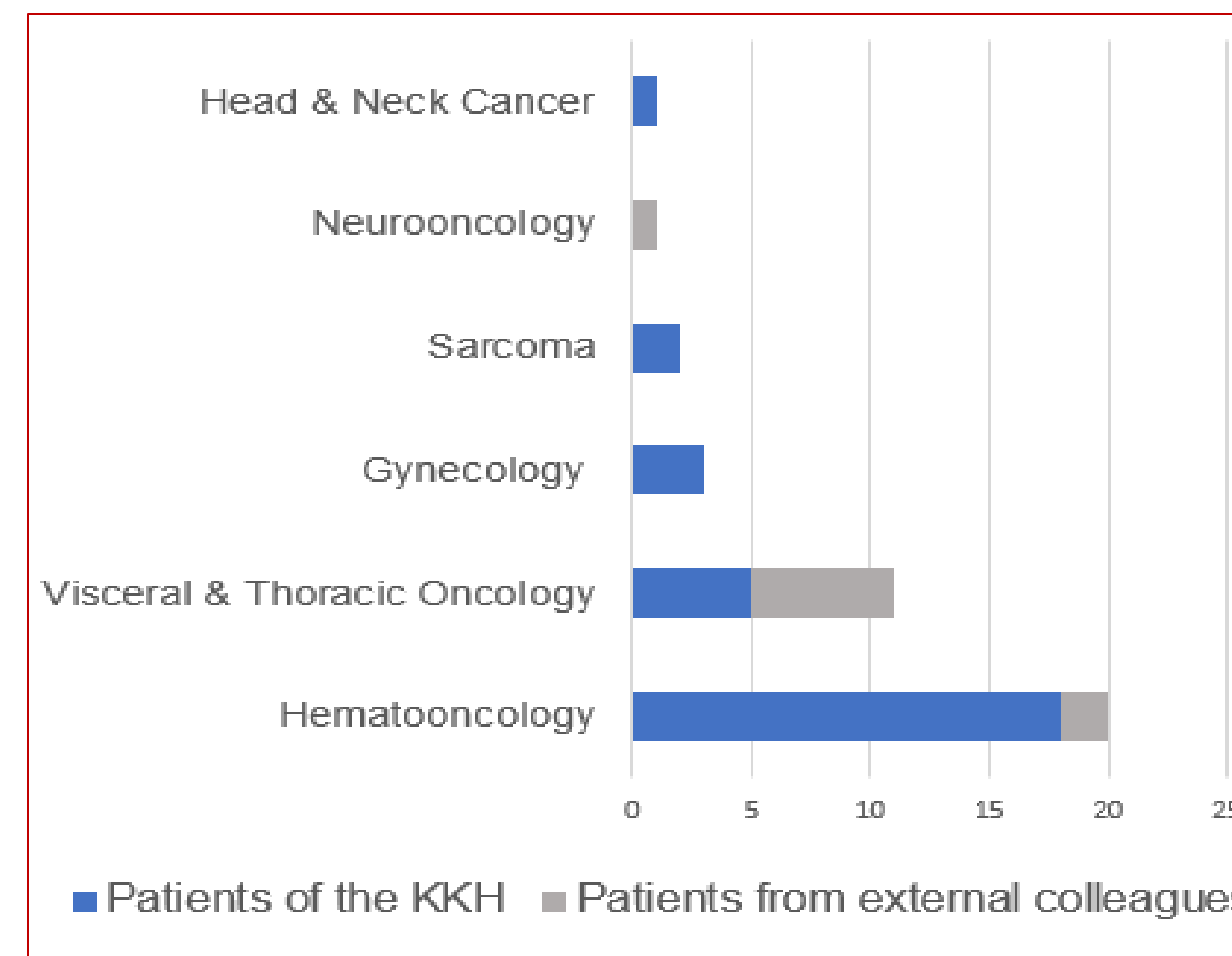


Figure 1: Number of patients discussed per entity

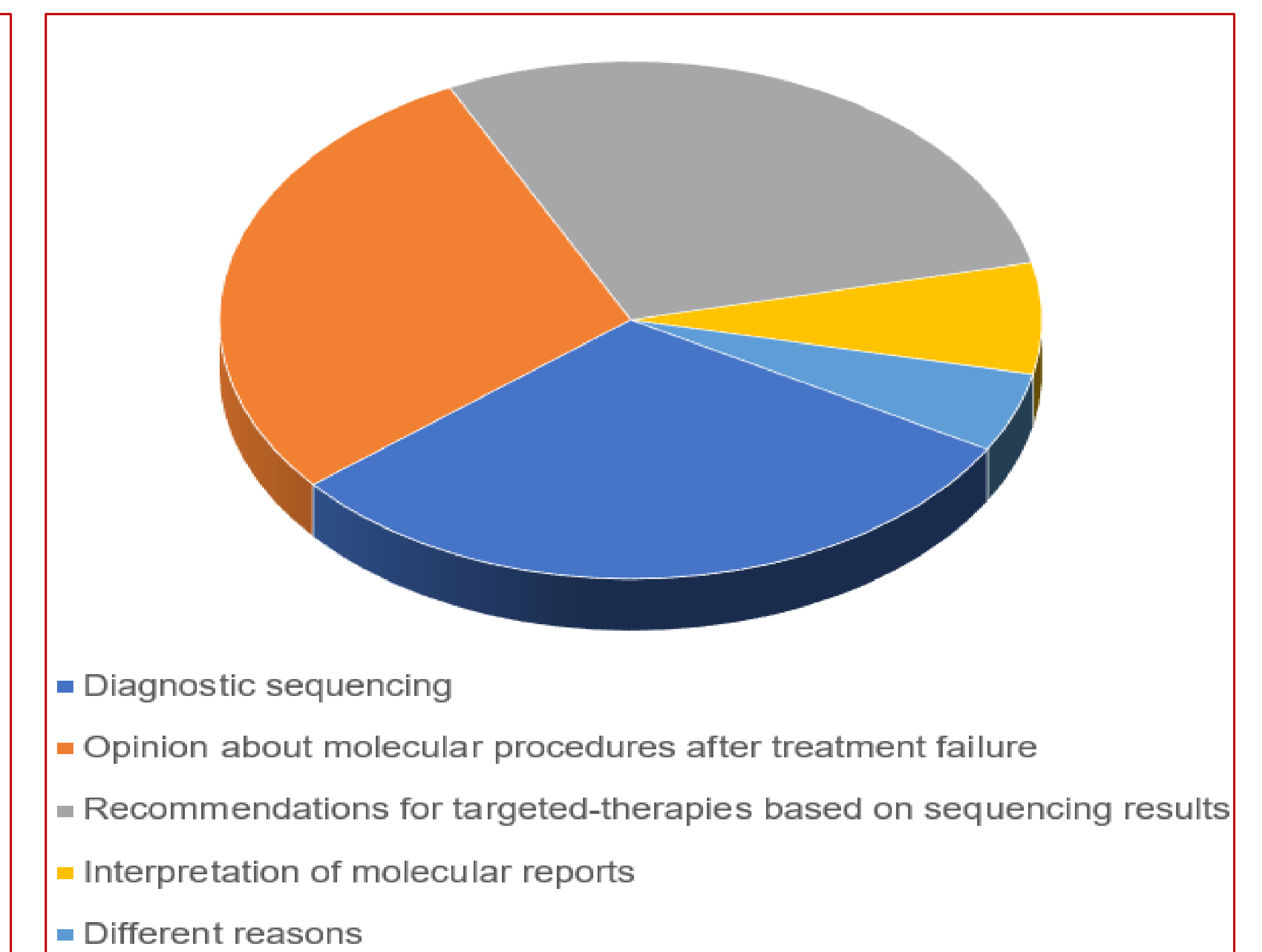


Figure 2: Objectives of presentation

Conclusion

- The interdisciplinary Molecular Tumor Conference of the KKH is a well-established platform where biology-driven diagnostic and experimental therapeutic potentials beyond national guidelines for advanced malignancies could be discussed and proposed to external and internal colleagues.
- Time-consuming reimbursement issues impede rapid implementation and need to be addressed nation-wide.