Methods

- Difficult to quantify all political factors, such as elections.
- Number (%)
- Sixty
- Student
- and 90
- exists in Canada.
- Head and Neck, Ovarian, Thyroid, Central Nervous System
- Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia, V5Z 4E6, Canada
- Booth, C.M., et al., (6)
- Variation
- Additional analyses also failed to demonstrate any
- Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4N 3M5, Canada
- Date
- Pre
- HYPOTHESIS: An association between election dates and cancer drug funding announcements exists in Canada.
- Retrospective cohort study.
- Identified new indications for cancer drugs between January 2003 and December 2012 inclusive.
- Dates of provincial official funding dates and provincial election dates between January 1, 2003 and December 31, 2014 were retrieved.
- The probability of drug funding announcements in the 60-day period preceding provincial elections was evaluated using binomial probability distribution analysis.
- Statistical significance was one-sided and defined as p<0.05.

Results

- Data were available from nine provinces (all Canadian provinces except Quebec).
- Sixty-nine indications comprising 39 individual drugs were identified.
- Variation in the availability of funding dates was identified.
- Two provinces did not have data available for all 69 indications at the time of data collection.
- Across the nine provinces, the number of funded indications during the 60-day period preceding elections ranged from 0 to 3.
- No statistically significant difference in the proportion of indications funded pre-election was identified.
- Additional analyses also failed to demonstrate any significant associations for the 90-day interval prior to elections, or the 60- and 90-day intervals following elections.

Discussion

- Reassuring finding; however, ongoing concerns persist.
- Difficult to quantify all political factors, such as lobbying from stakeholders, including patient advocacy groups and pharmaceutical companies.
- LIMITATIONS
- Unable to capture the impact of lobbying effects.
- Lack of transparency in negotiations between provincial governments and manufacturers.
- Date of funding by provincial formularies may be different from funding decision dates.

Conclusion

There was no clear temporal relationship between provincial election dates and funding decisions in this recent sample of Canadian cancer drugs.

References