



Federaal Kenniscentrum voor de Gezondheidszorg  
Centre Fédéral d'Expertise des Soins de Santé  
Belgian Health Care Knowledge Centre

# QUALITY INDICATORS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF UPPER GI CANCER

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# Background

Upper gastrointestinal cancer: oesophageal + gastric cancer

2010: > 2300 new cases in Belgium

High burden: 5-year relative survival

Guidelines 2012: Highly specialized care

# Objectives

## Primary

- Develop set of quality indicators
- Test measurability with available Belgian data

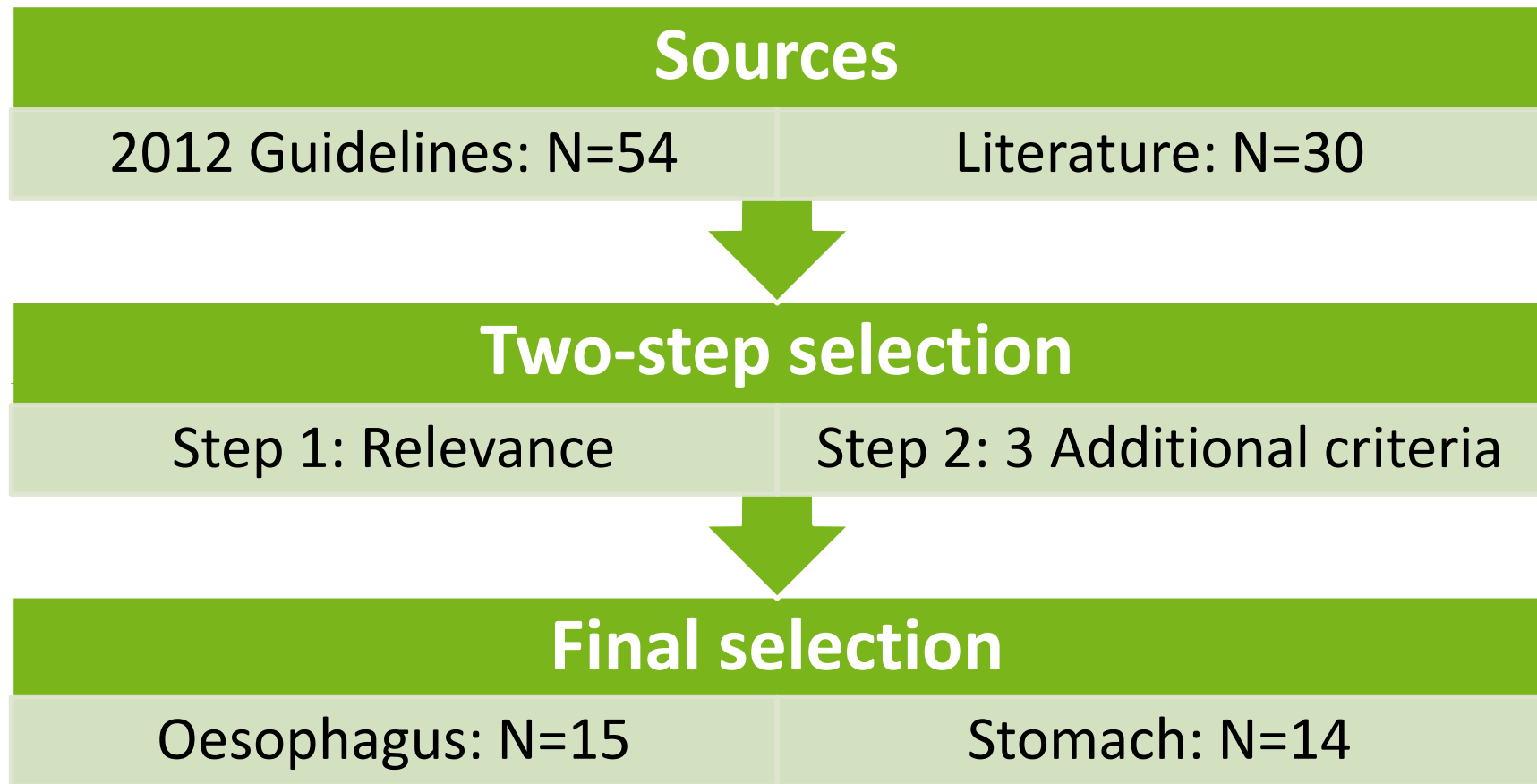
## Secondary

- Measure the quality indicators
- Judge quality of care (national + hospital)

## Ultimate

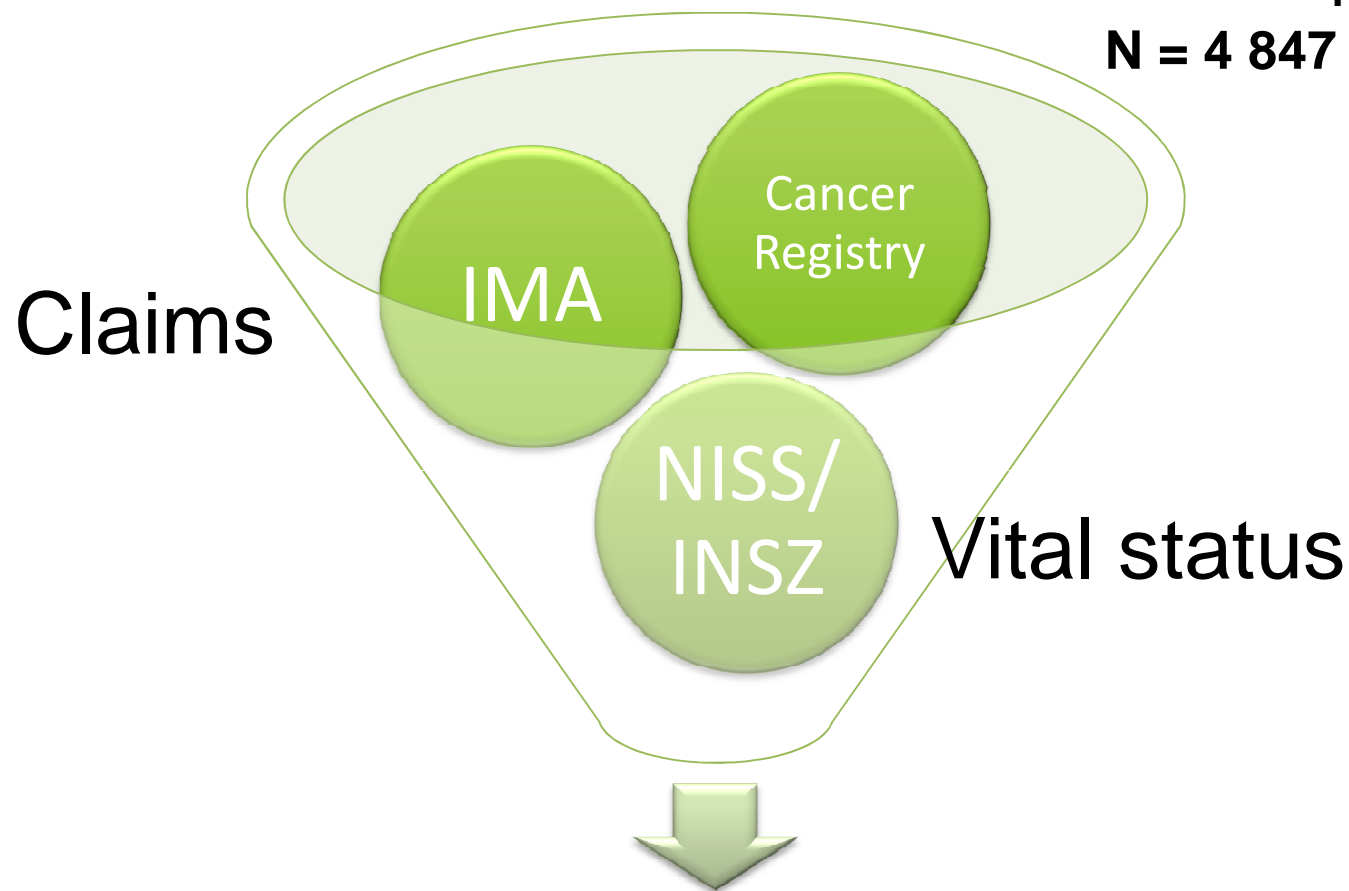
- Improve quality of care

# Selection process



# Data sources

N = 5 813 oesophagus  
+  
N = 4 847 stomach



**Coupled database 2004 - 2008**

# 13 measurable indicators

## Oesophagus: national

Indicator	Results 2004-2008
Staging CT	88.3%
Palliative support	44.0%
Treatment in high-volume centre	34.7%
30-day mortality	4.8%
Relative 5y survival	
Men	21.7%
Women	21.6%

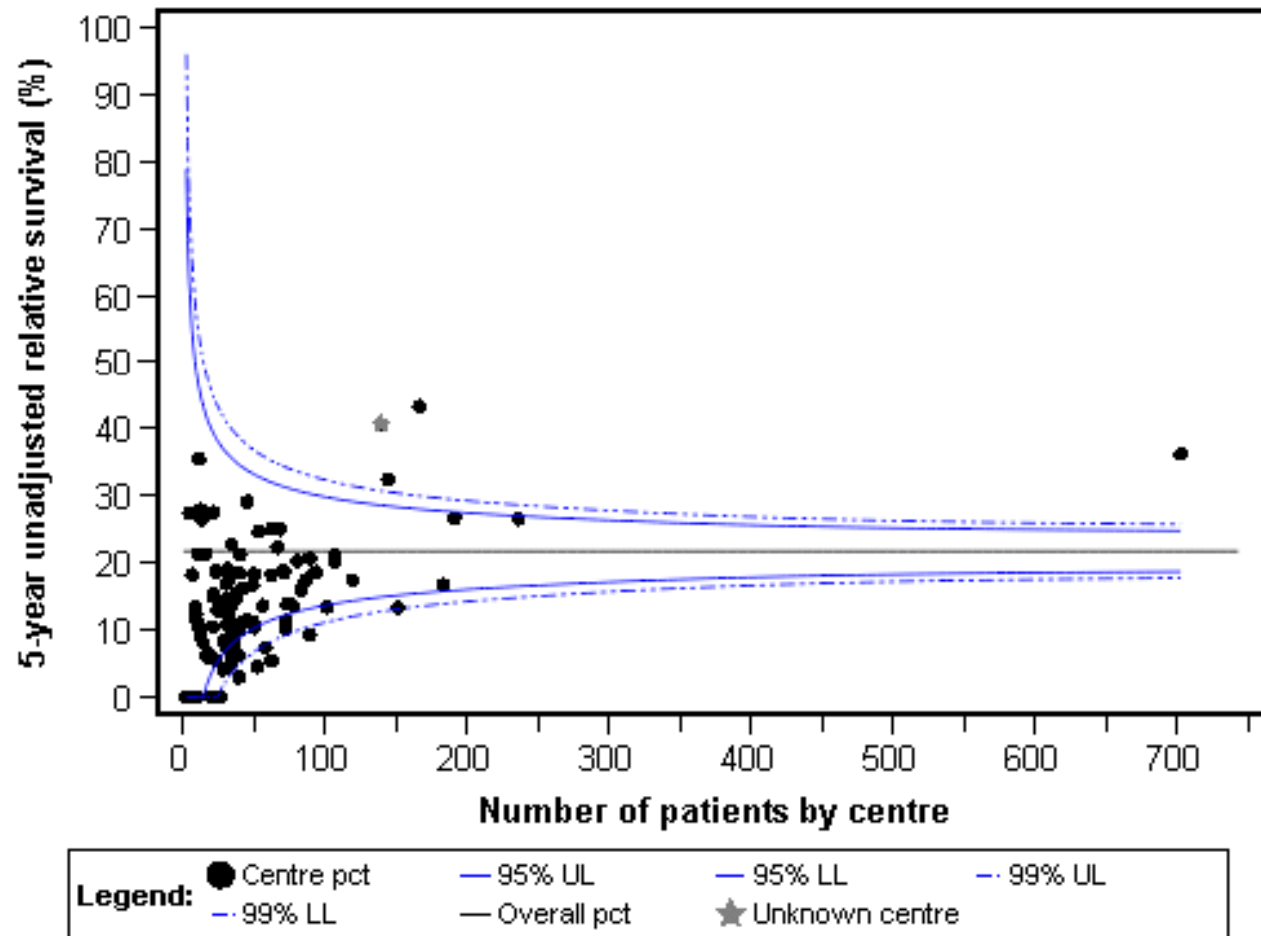
# 13 measurable indicators

## Stomach: national

Indicator	Results 2004-2008
Staging CT	84.5%
Palliative support	44.0%
Palliative chemotherapy	42.0%
Treatment in high-volume centre	4.7%
30-day mortality	5.6%
Relative 5y survival	
Men	28.4%
Women	31.4%

# Variability of care

## 5-year relative survival: oesophagus





# Volume and outcome

No centralisation between 2004 and 2008

Differences in case-mix according to volume

Clear volume-outcome relation

No explanation provided by process indicators

# Unknown cancer stage

Oesophagus: 28.9%

Stomach: 34.9%

Reporting variability across centres → volume  
for oesophageal cancer

# 5 indicators not useable

## Disparate administrative data

- Multidisciplinary oncologic consultation (both cancer types)

## Disparate definitions

- Neoadjuvant treatment (both cancer types)
- Primary chemoradiotherapy (oesophagus)

# Strengths & limitations



## STRENGTHS

- Population-based study
- Validation by 6 hospitals



## LIMITATIONS

- Missing information: 11 indicators not measurable
- Co-morbidity, socio-economic status
- Unknown stage

# Recommendations (1)

## To the Minister of Public Health

### Quality system

- Individual feedback
- Quality improvement

### Centralisation

- Results of report form basis for discussion

### MOC/COM

- Reimbursement conditional on compulsory registration of cancer stage and essential predefined variables



# Recommendations (2)

## To the Belgian Cancer Registry

MOC/COM  
registration

- Intention of treatment
- Co-morbidity
- Recurrence
- Lymph node status
- Resection margins

Volume-  
outcome  
relation

# Recommendations (3)

To the health care providers

## Evaluate

- Evaluate individual results
- Compare
- Engage in quality improvement process

## Define



# Colophon from KCE reports 200

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