



Reality check from patient
perspective: Overview on diagnostic
and monitoring in Central America

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For patients in Central America it's very complicated to have access to an early diagnosis and also to periodic monitoring, since the costs of these tests are quite high and patients don't always have access to perform them locally. In some cases they must travel to neighboring countries or pay high costs for the sample to be sent abroad.

In Central America we don't have the option of a Treatment Free Remission (TFR) program.

Guatemala



Before 2007 the PCR were sent to a laboratory in Miami through a private hospital and the cost per test was US\$740.00

In 2007, ASOPALEU started the PCR monitoring. The Association bought the Kit for BCR-ABL tests and the CERICAP laboratory was in charge of its management. This test was not standardized and its cost of US\$200.00 was covered by each patient.

Since 2015 the diagnostic and monitoring tests are free for patients treated at the San Juan de Dios and Roosevelt National Hospitals through The Institute for Scientific Research and Education about Human Genetic and Metabolic Diseases -INVEGEM- who also provides services to private patients from Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, the United States and Argentina.



Patients treated at public hospitals receive these free benefits:

1 PCR diagnostic test, Technique used presence or absence of BCR-ABL,

For private patients the cost is US\$ 365.00,

3 or 4 monitoring per patient per year, Technique used in real time PCR,

number of copies of the BCR-ABL gene, control gene, Ratio value,% Ratio and % IS value.

For private patients the cost is US\$465.00



Patients treated at the Social Security Institution don't have a sequence of controls with this laboratory, because the access depends on the contracts that this institution makes for these services.



Access Public Hospitals: Imatinib and in process the first import of Dasatinib through The Max Foundation.



Access to Imatinib, Dasatinib (different brands) and Nilotinib: Social Security.



For public health attention, the patient has access to a one free evaluation of mutations in the tyrosine kinase domain of BCR-ABL1.

For private patients the cost is US\$320.00



Social Security patients don't have access to mutation test.





SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR



The frequency of the monitoring in Hospital Nacional Rosales, depends on each patient and the approval of the doctor in charge.



Diagnostic and Monitoring Method:
Q-PCR (GeneXpert)



Coverage: The cost of the test is paid by each patient. US\$155.00



Access to Imatinib: Through The Max Foundation
Access to Imatinib (different brands): Social Security



No mutation test.



MANAGUA, NICARAGUA



The frequency of monitoring depends on the economy availability of each patient. Patients from Hospital Roberto Calderon Gutierrez, travel in groups to Centro de Cancer Emma Romero de Callejas in Tegucigalpa, Honduras every 3 or 4 months. These special trips are organized by Association of Patients Alas de Vida.



Diagnostic and monitoring method: Q-PCR (GeneXpert)



Coverage: For patients treated by Public Health, The Max Foundation US\$100.00 and the patient US\$20.00. They also pay approximately US\$50 in travel expenses to Honduras.



Access: Imatinib, Dasatinib, Nilotinib and Bosutinib through The Max Foundation.



Social Security: Imatinib and Dasatinib.



No mutation test..





SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA



The frequency of monitoring is every 6 months or 1 year, depending on each patient.
Diagnostic and monitoring method: Qiagen, Ph-IS



Coverage: Social Security patients receive free diagnostic tests and monitoring at the Molecular Biology Laboratory, located at the National Children's Hospital.
Private patients pay US\$600.00



The patients are treated in 5 different hospitals that cover all the country: In San José Costa Rica: San Juan de Dios, México, Calderón Guardia. In Cartago: Maximiliano Peralta. In Heredia: San Vicente de Paúl. They have a decentralized service and send the medication to each patient by courier.



Access to: Imatinib, Nilotinib, Dasatinib and 1 compassionate case with Ponatinib, and bone marrow transplant, through Social Security.



They do have Mutation Tests.





It's important to highlight that none of the patients in Guatemala, attended by Public Health or Social Security, receive a copy of their PCR results, causing the majority of them to be unaware of them. Only some of the doctors allow the patient to obtain a copy of these results.

This is a disadvantage, even if the patient wants to have a second opinion of his results. Most doctors are limited to say "your results are fine" or "your results are wrong"



Only Guatemala and Costa Rica have totally free the Mutation test.



In Central America only Honduras and Nicaragua have 1st, 2nd and 3rd line of treatment through the MAS program of the Max Foundation.
only Costa Rica have a Bone Marrow Trasplant.

never stop
LEARNING
because life
never stops
TEACHING

THANK YOU!

