



Virtual Mobility Grant Title:
Impact of COVID-19 on Management of Gynaecological Cancers

Grantee name: Dr RICCARDO DI FIORE

Management Committee Meeting: 26th OCTOBER 2021

Background

- ▶ The rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has had dramatic effects on individuals and health care systems.
- ▶ In particular, this lead to delay in receiving treatment, often resulting in worse prognosis and less chances of cure.
- ▶ Unfortunately, clinical management has become more challenging for clinicians involved in the management of gynaecological malignancies, including rare cancers.
 - ▶ Reasons :-
 - ▶ Lack of blood products
 - ▶ Lack of intensive care unit beds

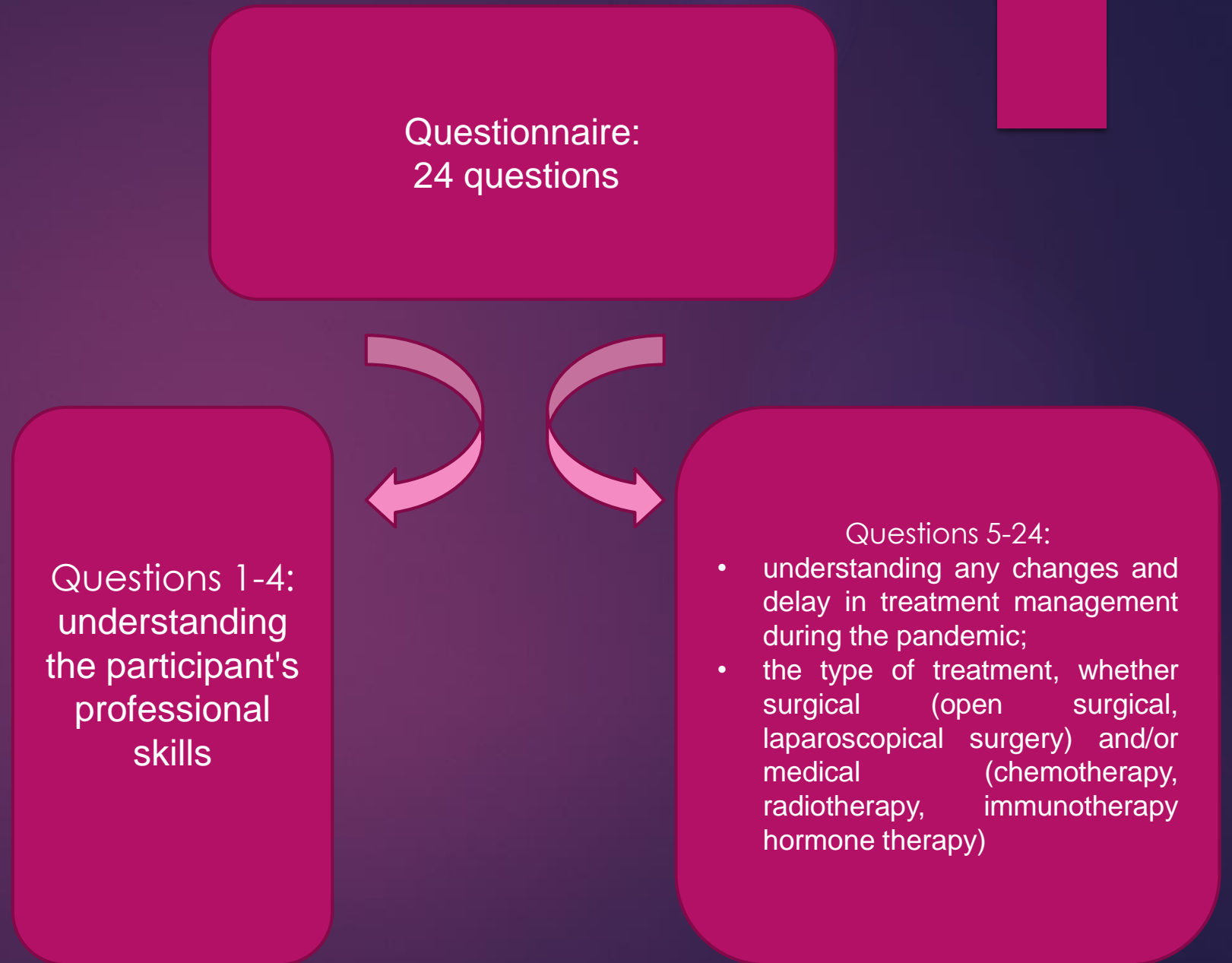
} due to patients infected with COVID-19



- ▶ The aim of this VM has been to design a survey to investigate how specialist oncologists, specialist gynaecologists, specialist general surgeons and clinical oncologists specialised in gynaecological malignancy, had to modify their management of gynaecological cancers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶ This survey is aimed at clinicians working in the countries participating in the GYNOCARE COST Action (30 countries).

Approach

Formulation of a questionnaire to evaluate the changes in the management of patients suffering from gynaecological malignancies (e.g. endometrial, cervical, uterine corpus, tubo-ovarian, vulvo-vaginal and other cancers) during the pandemic.



The next steps will be:

- ▶ To apply for ethical approval
- ▶ To distribute the questionnaire among all the members and participants of the GYNOCARE COST Action.

Possible outcome/s:

- ▶ New guidelines could be designed in order to improve the management of gynaecological cancers, especially during this pandemic and other future pandemics.



Thanks to the different and remarkable skills of all the participants involved, after numerous on-line meetings, it was possible to design the questionnaire.

The participants in this virtual mobility tool were:

- the applicant himself Dr. Riccardo Di Fiore, University of Malta
- Prof. Antonio Giordano, Sbarro Institute for Cancer Research and Molecular Medicine of the Temple University of Philadelphia
- Dr. Francesca Pentimalli, National Cancer Institute of Naples
- Prof Charles Savona-Ventura, Head of Department of O+G at the University of Malta
- Dr James Beirne, St James Hospital, Dublin
- Dr Sharon O'Toole, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.