

Press release

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New research on lung cancer drug affordability to be presented at ASCO 2025

A new study identifying cost-effective price targets for life-extending lung cancer therapies in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) will be presented for the first time at the 2025 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting in late May, one of the world's leading oncology conferences.

This study was led by Medicines Patent Pool, with the supporting economic analysis conducted by Triangulate Health. The research provides critical evidence to help expand access to immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs)—including atezolizumab, cemiplimab, and pembrolizumab—for patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) in LMICs.

The study found that current prices of ICIs would often require reductions, *by as much as 93% in some cases*, to meet the assessed cost-effectiveness thresholds in countries like India and South Africa, with optimal price ranges between \$14.20 and \$648.00 per cycle per patient. The authors emphasise that solutions such as biosimilar adoption that could be facilitated by voluntary licensing and technology transfer, and dose optimisation can help reach these price points.

This is the first time these findings will be presented, and doing so at ASCO—a global platform for high-impact cancer research—underscores both the urgency and the global relevance of making cancer care more equitable.

ASCO brings together over 40,000 oncology professionals annually to showcase the latest in cancer research and clinical practice. Presentation of this study at ASCO 2025 signals growing attention to access and affordability as key pillars of global cancer control.

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Link to abstract on ASCO website: <https://meetings.asco.org/abstracts-presentations/248066>

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