

Background

▪Globally, breast cancer (BC) is the most common cancer in women based on both incidence and prevalence and the most frequent cause of cancer death in women, worldwide¹.

▪In Greece, breast cancer was estimated to be the 3rd most commonly diagnosed cancer site, with 7,772 new cases annually². Additionally, breast cancer was responsible for 2,333 deaths in 2020, making it the first leading cause of cancer death among women in the country².

▪Several systemic therapeutic options are available for breast cancer (BC)^{3,4} and oncologists assess the appropriate regimen for each patient based on disease and treatment characteristics through major health budget constraints.

▪An important question that arises is how clinical experts manage the challenges experienced by health systems, and how this impacts their decision process in selecting the most appropriate treatment for BC patients.

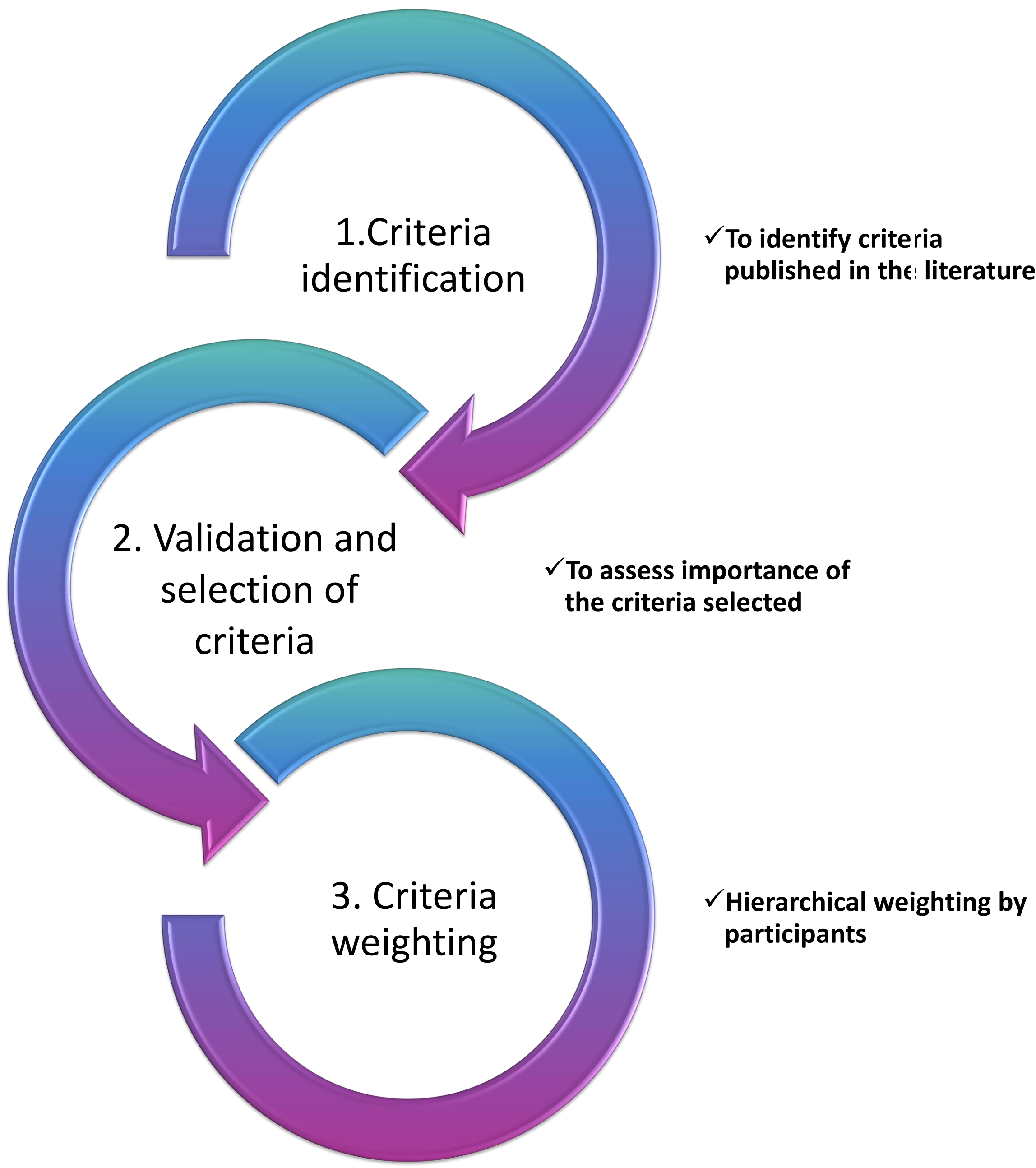
Objective

In this light, the aim of the study was to identify and weight a set of criteria taken into account by oncologist for the selection of the most appropriate treatment for BC patients in Greece.

Methods

- A literature review was conducted to identify a set of criteria considered for the BC treatment management (Figure 1).
- The selected criteria were then presented to a group of experts composed of 8 clinical oncologists from distinguished public or private BC treatment centers across all major geographic regions of Greece.
- The partial value of each criterion and level was hierarchically classified by allocating weights on a 0–100 scale.
- The participants were asked to assign weights to the criteria, or, in other words, to estimate their relative importance in the final decision. A model was developed in MS-Excel, with spreadsheet containing all criteria and their scoring functions (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Steps of research methodology



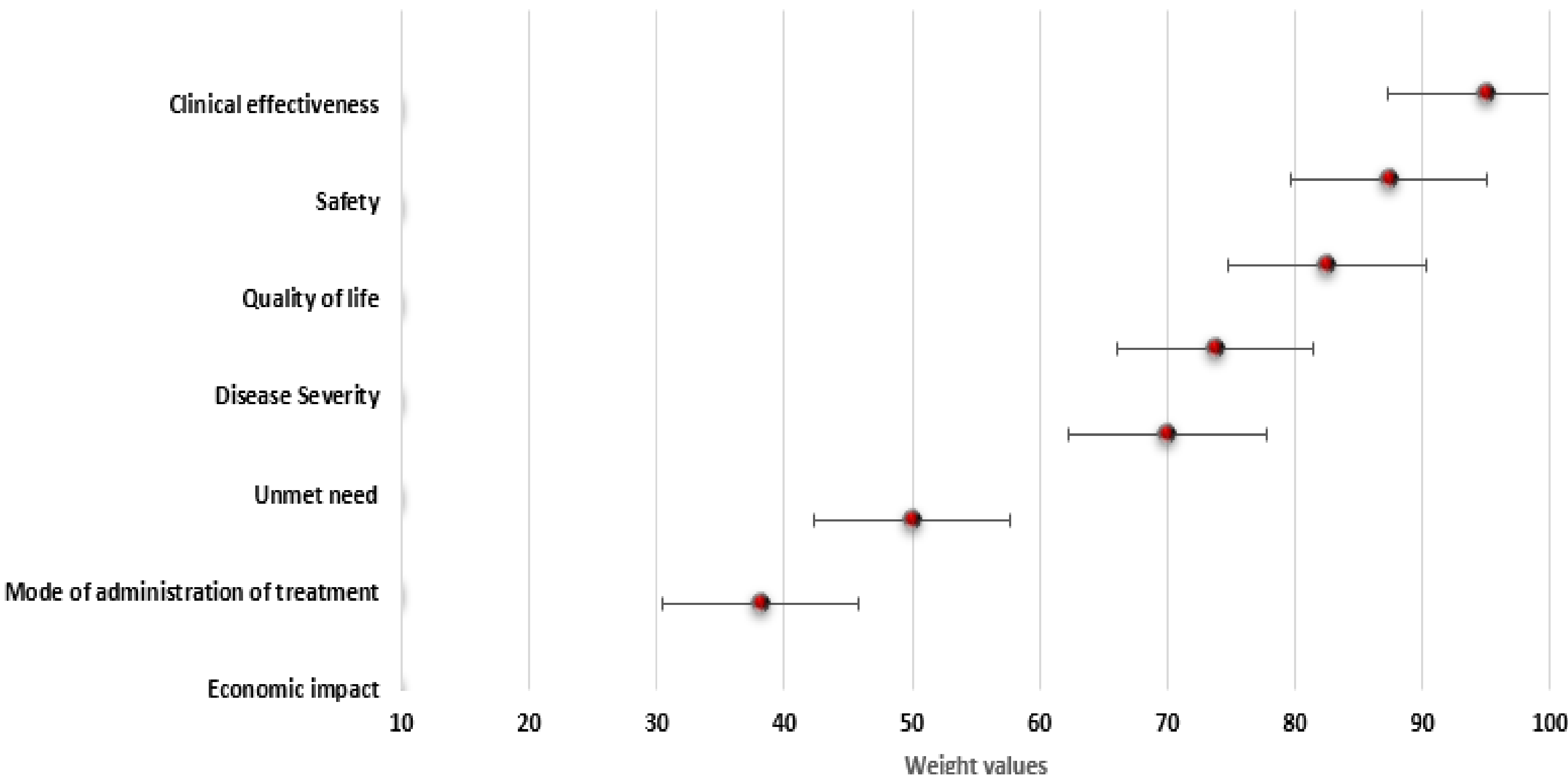
Acknowledgement

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Results

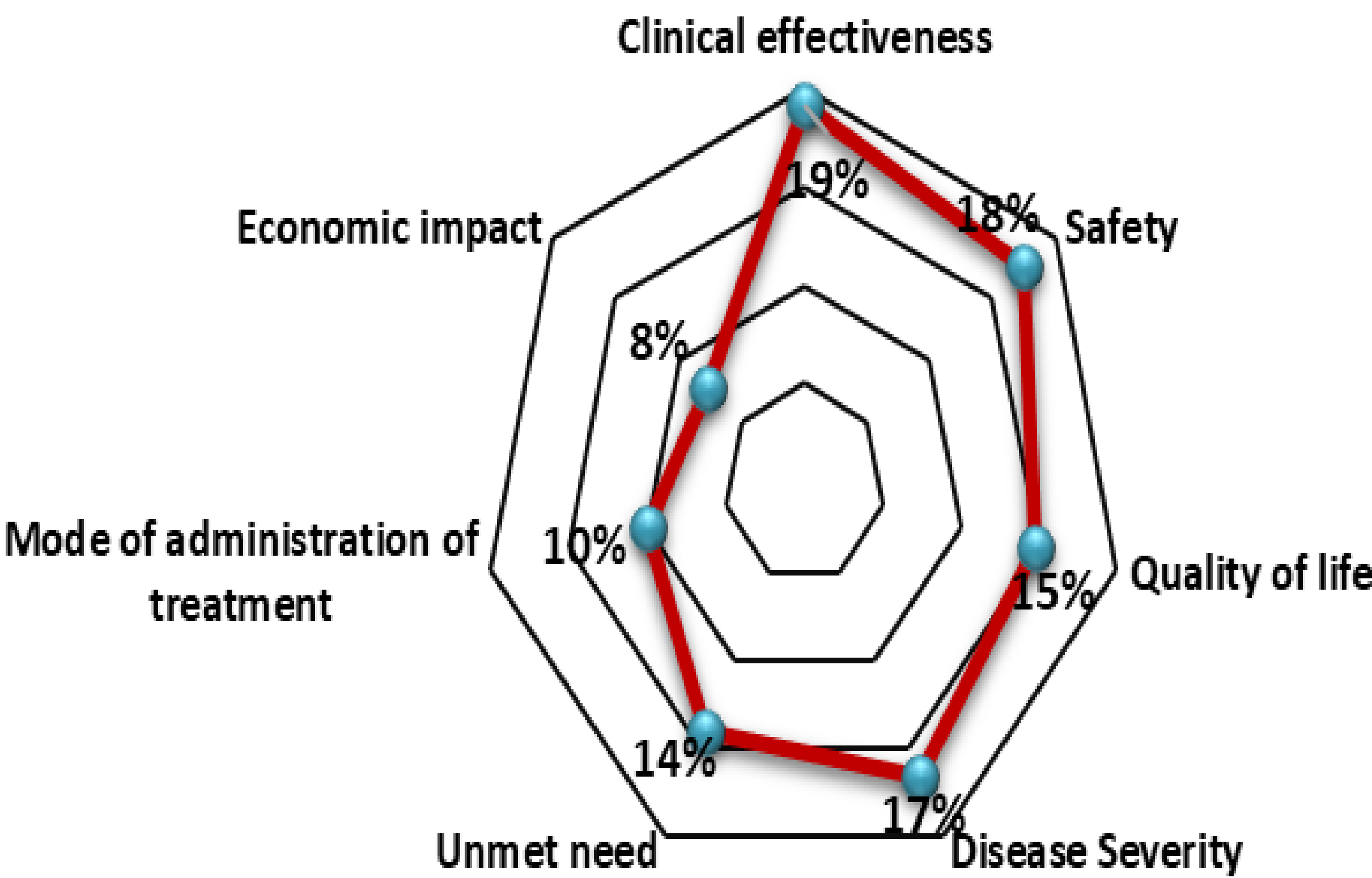
- The criteria included in the analysis, were efficacy, safety, quality of life, unmet needs, disease severity, economic impact and mode of administration of treatment (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Mean preference scores for each criterion (Raw Data)



- From the oncologists’ perspective **efficacy** (19%), was ranked as the **most important criterion** for choosing the appropriate treatment for BC patients (Figure 3).
- **Safety and quality of life** (Figure 3) are also important attributes to consider, whereas the **least important criterion** for treatment selection was its **economic impact** (8%).

Figure 3: Criteria ranking (Normalized data)



Conclusions

- In a period of pharmaceutical cost containment, efficacy and safety are the key criteria for the selection of patient BC treatment in Greece from a clinician perspective.
- The findings of present study highlight the need for structural changes in the Greek healthcare system to ensure that pharmaceutical expenditure is truly rationalized and enhance patients access to new innovative BC treatments.
- Budget capping and pay-back model in pharmaceutical expenditure should be reassessed as they may lead to access restriction to effective and safe therapies jeopardizing, as such, Greek patients’ health.

References

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2. Globocan. 2020
3. Gennari A, et al. Ann Oncol. 2021.
4. Cardoso F, et al. Ann Oncol. 2019