

Table 6. Health state description and monthly cost (€).

Health state	Description	Cost (€)
NED (after primary treatment): follow-up A	5-year follow-up program based on NCCN guidelines. Frequency of outpatient visits depending on cancer subsite. Laboratory tests performed once a year. Loco-regional imaging (MRI/CT*) performed within six months after treatment end and then recommended only at the occurrence of new signs or symptoms. Inter-visit phone calls to monitor patient's symptomatology.	12.1 No costs from the 6 th year onwards
NED (after primary treatment): follow-up B	Alternative 5-year follow-up program as designed by the HETeCo trial investigators. Frequency of outpatient visits depending on cancer subsite. Laboratory tests performed once a year. Loco-regional imaging (MRI/CT*) requested two times/year in the first two years and once/year in the third and fourth year. PET scan performed yearly in the first three years only in high-risk patients (≥ 50 years and ≥ 20 pack/years).	Up to the 3 rd year: 91.9 From the 4 th year: 15.3 No costs from the 6 th year onwards
Salvageable recurrence (surgery)	Major head and neck surgical intervention with excision of tumor and surrounding tissues. Hospital stay of around one month.	5,444
Salvageable recurrence (re-irradiation)	Intensity-modulated radiation therapy with curative intent five days a week for 5-6 weeks.	10,000
NED (after salvage surgery/re-irradiation)	Same program described in NED (after primary treatment), follow-up A	Overall cost (5 years): 727.2 Monthly cost: 12.1 No costs from the 6 th year onwards
Non-salvageable recurrence (chemotherapy/palliative care)	Combined treatment of platinum-based chemotherapy plus 5-fluorouracil (once a month) and cetuximab (once a week) administered up to one month before death. End-of-life care consisting in home-based palliative care (13.5%) and hospital admissions during the last month of life (78.0%).	Chemotherapy (1 st month): 3,720.0 Chemotherapy: (2 nd month onwards): 3,263.9 (Average) monthly cost: 3,063.3** End-of-life care***: 3,403.5

*MRI is preferred for all HNC subsites except for larynx. **The average monthly cost for chemotherapy (including administration) is calculated based on an average stay of 14 months in the 'non-salvageable recurrence' state. A gamma distribution ($\alpha=100$; $\beta=30.6$) is assigned to the obtained value (€3,063.3). ***End-of-life care cost is calculated as $13.5\% * 2,100 + 78\% * 4,000 = €3,403.5$ over a 3-month period and assigned to all patients entering the 'non-salvageable recurrence' state. CT: computed tomography; HETeCo: Health and Economic Outcomes of Two Different Follow up Strategies in Effectively Cured Advanced Head and Neck Cancer; MRI: magnetic resonance imaging; NCCN: National Comprehensive Cancer Network; NED: no evidence of disease. PET: positron emission tomography.