• Breakthrough cancer Pain (BTcP) is high intensity, short duration pain occurring in several episodes per day and is non-responsive to treatment.
• Circadian exacerbations of pain in cancer patients should be carefully monitored, differentiating, if possible, between changes of background pain, end-of-dose effect, and BTcP.
• BTcP should be monitored in all care contexts in clinical practice, each care facility must have all the medications and products approved for use in BTcP and physicians must know the specific characteristics of each medication.
• Medications for treatment of BTcP are not automatically interchangeable, even if they contain the same active substance.
• Before choosing a rapid-onset opioid (ROO) for BTcP, the patient must be treated effectively with major opioids for background pain and particular attention must be given to the variables concerning the patient and their family unit/caregivers.

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