

Singapore

Prostate Cancer Factsheet: Insights & Key Developments

Key Insights on Prostate Cancer
Care and Infrastructure

Core Pillars:

1. Infrastructure
2. Treatment Access, Research Funding and Awareness Campaigns
3. Survival Rates, Early Detection and Palliative Care
4. Utilization of Biomarkers
5. Clinical Guidelines
6. Reimbursement
7. Prostate Cancer Screening

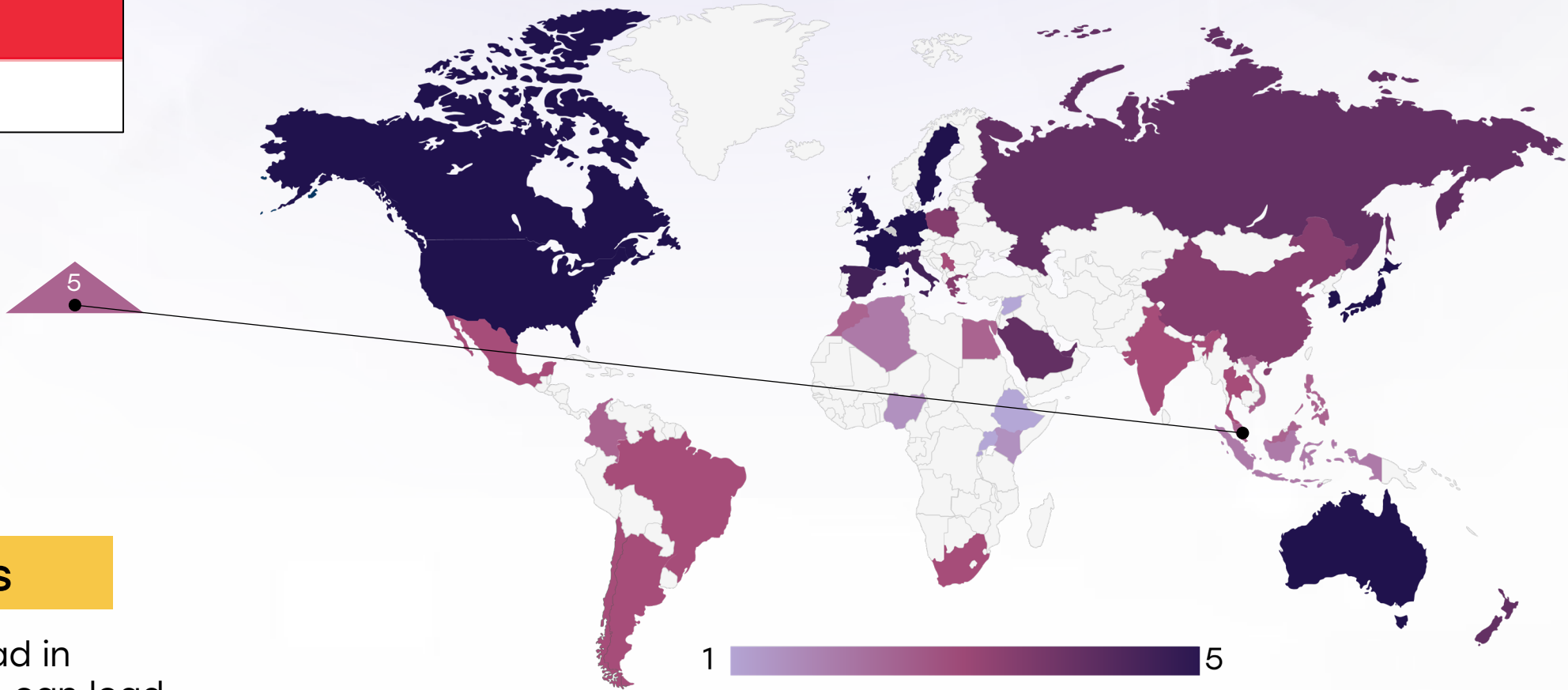
Prostate cancer remains one of the most prevalent cancers worldwide, affecting millions of individuals each year. Despite advancements in diagnostics, treatment, and awareness, disparities in access to care, molecular testing, and specialized centers persist.

This factsheet provides a comprehensive overview of key pillars shaping Prostate cancer care, including specialized infrastructure, treatment accessibility, research funding, early detection, and palliative care.

- **Incidence share:** One of the top 5 cancers in Singaporean men.
- **Incidence rate:** Approximately 25–30 per 100,000 men per year.
- **Total new cases (2022):** Around 2,000–2,200 men.
- **Daily diagnoses (2022):** ~6 men per day.
- **Deaths (2022):** Approximately 500–600 men.
- **5-year survival rate:** Estimated ~80–85%, due to adequate healthcare access.
- **Most affected age group:** Men aged 65 and older.
- **Screening participation:** PSA testing offered ad hoc; no nationwide organized program.

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Infrastructure



Strengths

- Singapore has a world-class healthcare infrastructure, including advanced cancer centers like the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS) and Tan Tock Seng Hospital.
- High availability of robotic-assisted surgery, imaging (PET-CT, MRI), and radiation therapy facilities.

Weakness

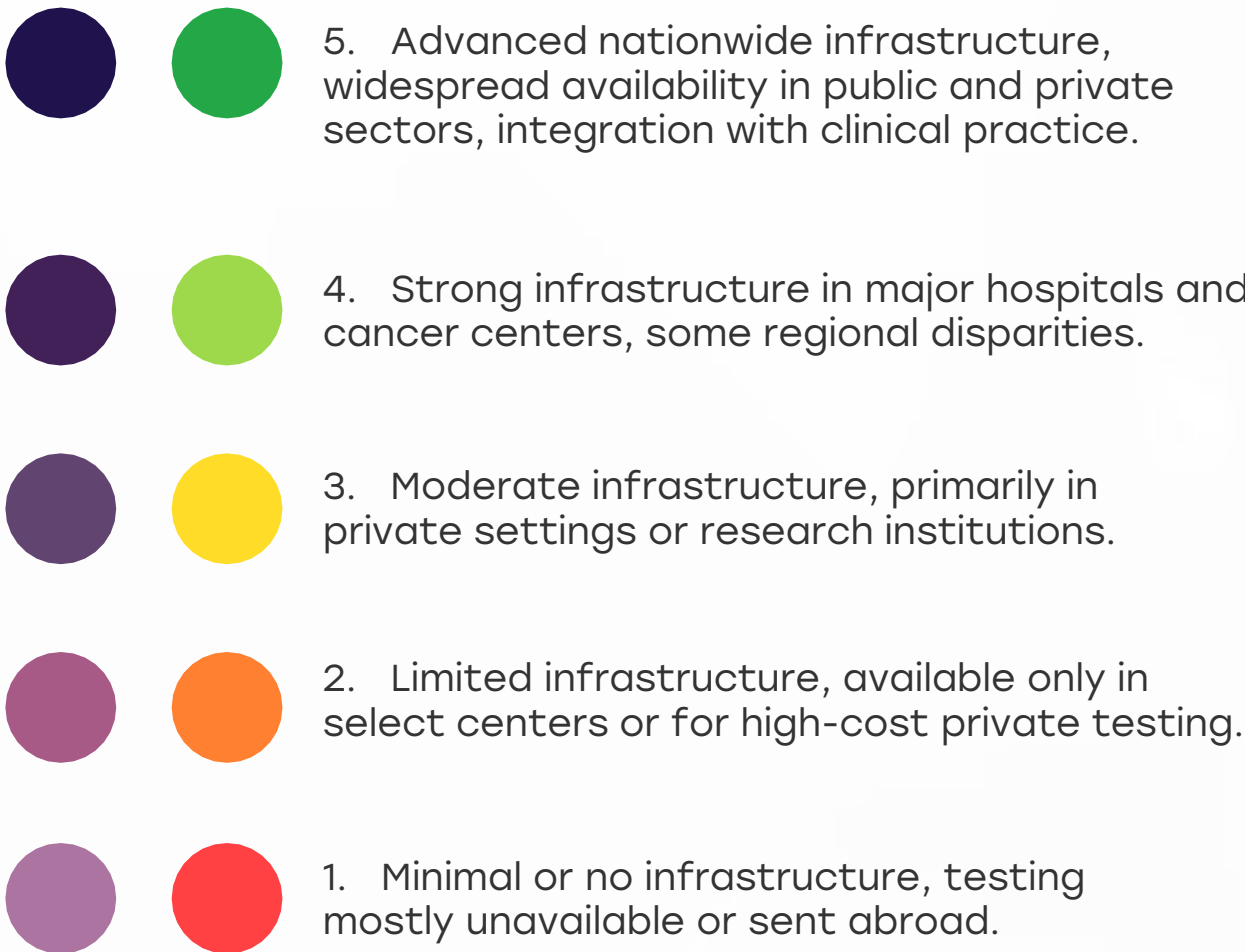
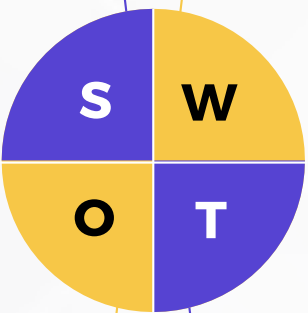
- High patient load in public hospitals can lead to longer waiting times for certain procedures.
- Infrastructure development is heavily centralized, which may affect accessibility for lower-income or elderly patients.

Opportunity

- Expand community oncology care models to reduce hospital burden.
- Promote cross-institution data sharing and registries for prostate cancer tracking.

Threats

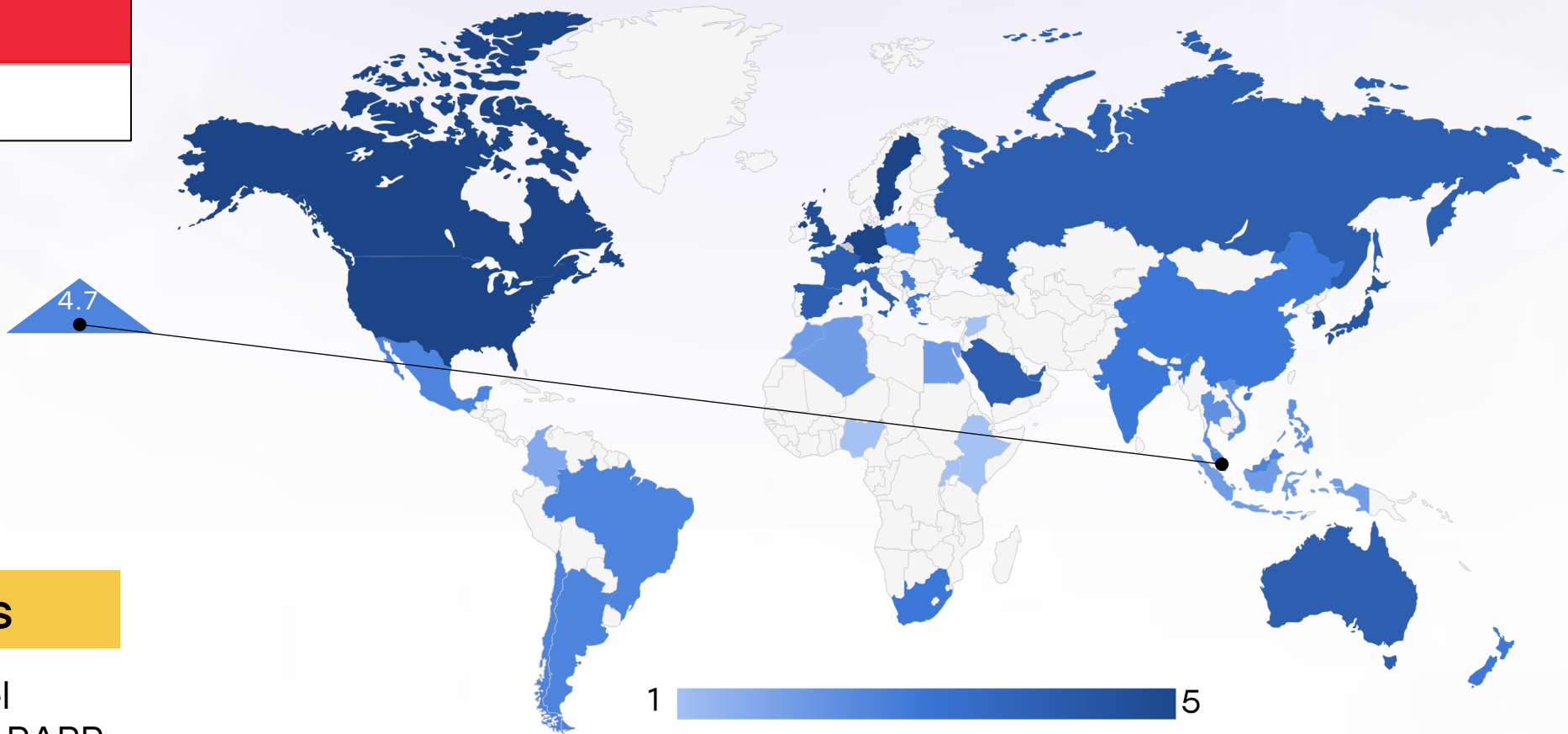
- Rising healthcare costs may strain future expansions and accessibility.
- Dependency on high-tech solutions may widen disparity between public and private care access.



Country	Specialized Centers	Genetic & Molecular Testing Infrastructure
South Africa		
Kenya		
Nigeria		
Egypt		
Morocco		
Algeria		
Ethiopia		
India		
Japan		
South Korea		
China		
Thailand		
Singapore		
United Kingdom		
Germany		
France		
Netherlands		
Sweden		
Italy		
Spain		
Poland		
Mexico		
Brazil		
Argentina		
Chile		
Colombia		
United States		
Canada		
Australia		
New Zealand		
Greece		
Rwanda		
Uganda		
Serbia		
Saudi Arabia		
UAE		
Syria		
Indonesia		
Vietnam		
Philippines		
Russia		
Malaysia		

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Treatment Access, Research Funding and Awareness Campaigns



Strengths

- Government covers treatment via MediShield Life, MediSave, and CHAS schemes, ensuring financial protection.
- Strong presence of biomedical research institutions, e.g., A*STAR and Duke-NUS, contributing to cancer research.

Weakness

- Access to novel therapies (e.g., PARP inhibitors, genetic testing) may be limited in terms of public funding.
- Awareness campaigns around prostate cancer remain less visible compared to breast or colorectal cancer.
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Opportunity

- Scale up male-specific cancer awareness campaigns, targeting older male populations.
- Increase public-private partnerships to fund high-cost diagnostic innovations

Threats

- Competing priorities in national cancer strategies (e.g., colorectal and breast) could limit focus on prostate.
- Research on ethnic-specific risk profiles (Malay, Indian populations) is still emerging and underfunded.



5. Strong healthcare infrastructure with comprehensive treatment access, high research funding, and nationwide awareness campaigns. Patients have access to advanced therapies, clinical trials, and widespread early detection programs.



4. Well-developed system with good treatment availability, strong research funding, and effective but regionally focused awareness campaigns. Some disparities may exist in rural areas or between public and private sectors.



3. Moderate development, with specialized treatments available in major hospitals, research funding concentrated on specific cancers, and occasional but limited awareness efforts. Healthcare access may be restricted by cost or geography.



2. Limited system where cancer treatment is available only in select urban centers, research funding is minimal or sporadic, and awareness campaigns are rare or underfunded. Patients often face long wait times or financial barriers.

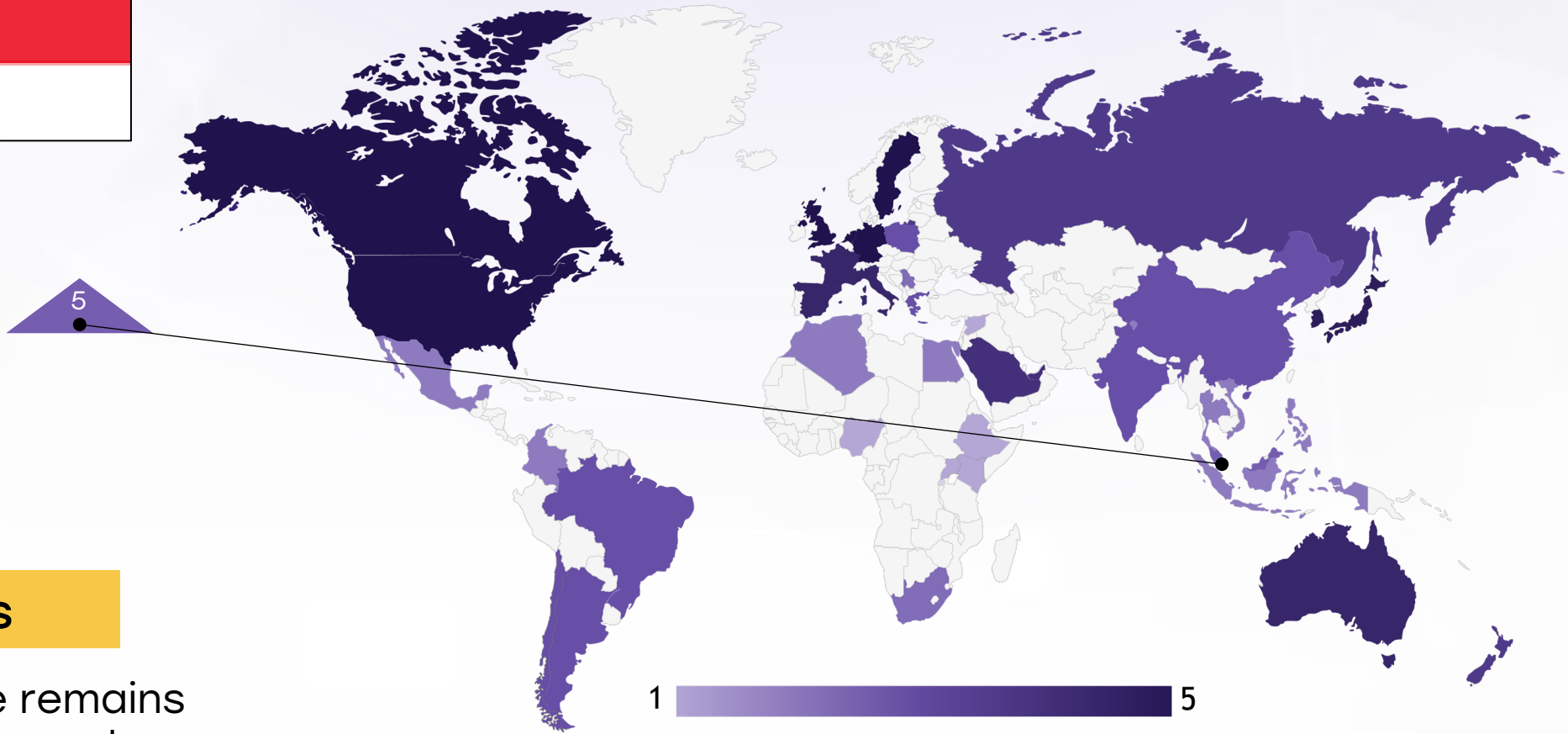


1. Poor infrastructure with severe barriers to treatment, little to no research funding, and lack of structured awareness campaigns. Cancer care is largely inaccessible, with many patients relying on out-of-pocket expenses or external aid.

Country	Treatment Access	Research Funding	Awareness Campaigns
South Africa			
Kenya			
Nigeria			
Egypt			
Morocco			
Algeria			
Ethiopia			
India			
Japan			
South Korea			
China			
Thailand			
Singapore			
United Kingdom			
Germany			
France			
Netherlands			
Sweden			
Italy			
Spain			
Poland			
Mexico			
Brazil			
Argentina			
Chile			
Colombia			
United States			
Canada			
Australia			
New Zealand			
Greece			
Rwanda			
Uganda			
Serbia			
Saudi Arabia			
UAE			
Syria			
Indonesia			
Vietnam			
Philippines			
Russia			
Malaysia			

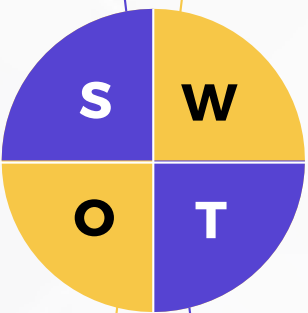
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Survival Rates, Early
Detection and
Palliative Care



Strengths

- Singapore records a 5-year survival rate for prostate cancer of over 80%, among the highest in Asia.
- Early detection is common, due to PSA-based screening in private and public settings.



Weakness

- Palliative care remains underutilized in early phases of advanced cancer.
- Cultural barriers in discussing end-of-life care and mental health still persist.

Opportunity

- Enhance home-based palliative programs to support aging patients.
- Expand survivorship support services, including mental health and sexual health care.

Threats

- Rising incidence with an aging population may strain oncology and geriatric care systems.
- Delays in late-stage diagnosis among lower-income or less health-literate populations.

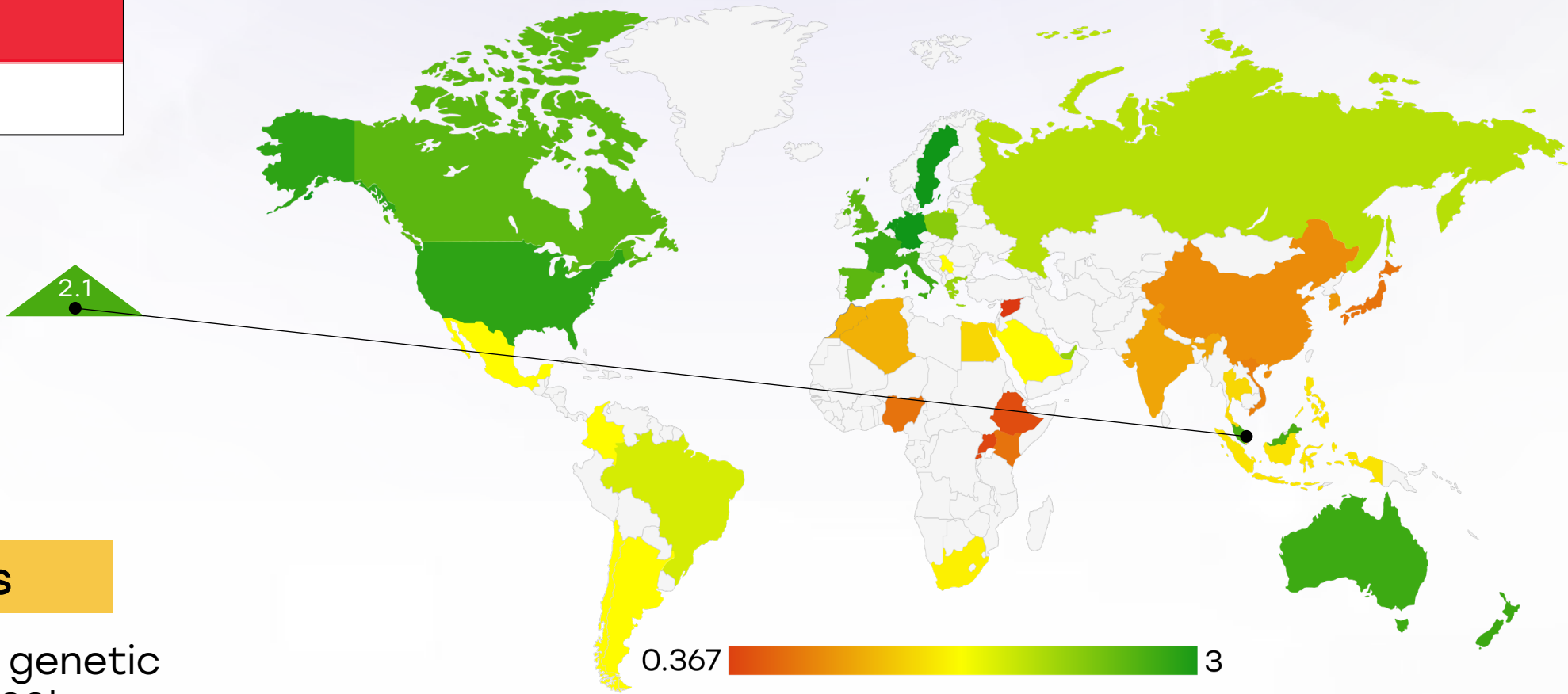
5. High survival rates, strong early detection programs, and well-established palliative care services. Patients have access to timely diagnosis, advanced treatments, and comprehensive end-of-life care.
4. Good survival rates, effective early detection efforts, and accessible but regionally limited palliative care. Some disparities may exist in rural areas or for specific cancer types.
3. Moderate survival rates, early detection available but not widespread, and palliative care services mainly in urban centers. Some patients experience delays in diagnosis or limited end-of-life care.
2. Low survival rates, early detection efforts are inconsistent or underfunded, and palliative care is minimal or only available in select hospitals. Cancer patients face significant access barriers.
1. Very low survival rates, poor early detection infrastructure, and almost no palliative care services. Many patients are diagnosed late and lack proper support for pain management and end-of-life care.

Country	Survival Rates	Early Detection	Palliative Care
South Africa			
Kenya			
Nigeria			
Egypt			
Morocco			
Algeria			
Ethiopia			
India			
Japan			
South Korea			
China			
Thailand			
Singapore			
United Kingdom			
Germany			
France			
Netherlands			
Sweden			
Italy			
Spain			
Poland			
Mexico			
Brazil			
Argentina			
Chile			
Colombia			
United States			
Canada			
Australia			
New Zealand			
Greece			
Rwanda			
Uganda			
Serbia			
Saudi Arabia			
UAE			
Syria			
Indonesia			
Vietnam			
Philippines			
Russia			
Malaysia			

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Utilization of Biomarkers



Strengths

- PSA testing is routine in major hospitals and some PCSO screening events.
- Advanced markers (e.g., free-PSA, PCA3, genetic panels) are available via selected labs or research programs.

Opportunity


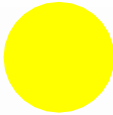

- Integrate free-PSA in PhilHealth’s screening package for men 50+.
- Pilot low-cost genetic testing in high-risk groups to guide treatment.

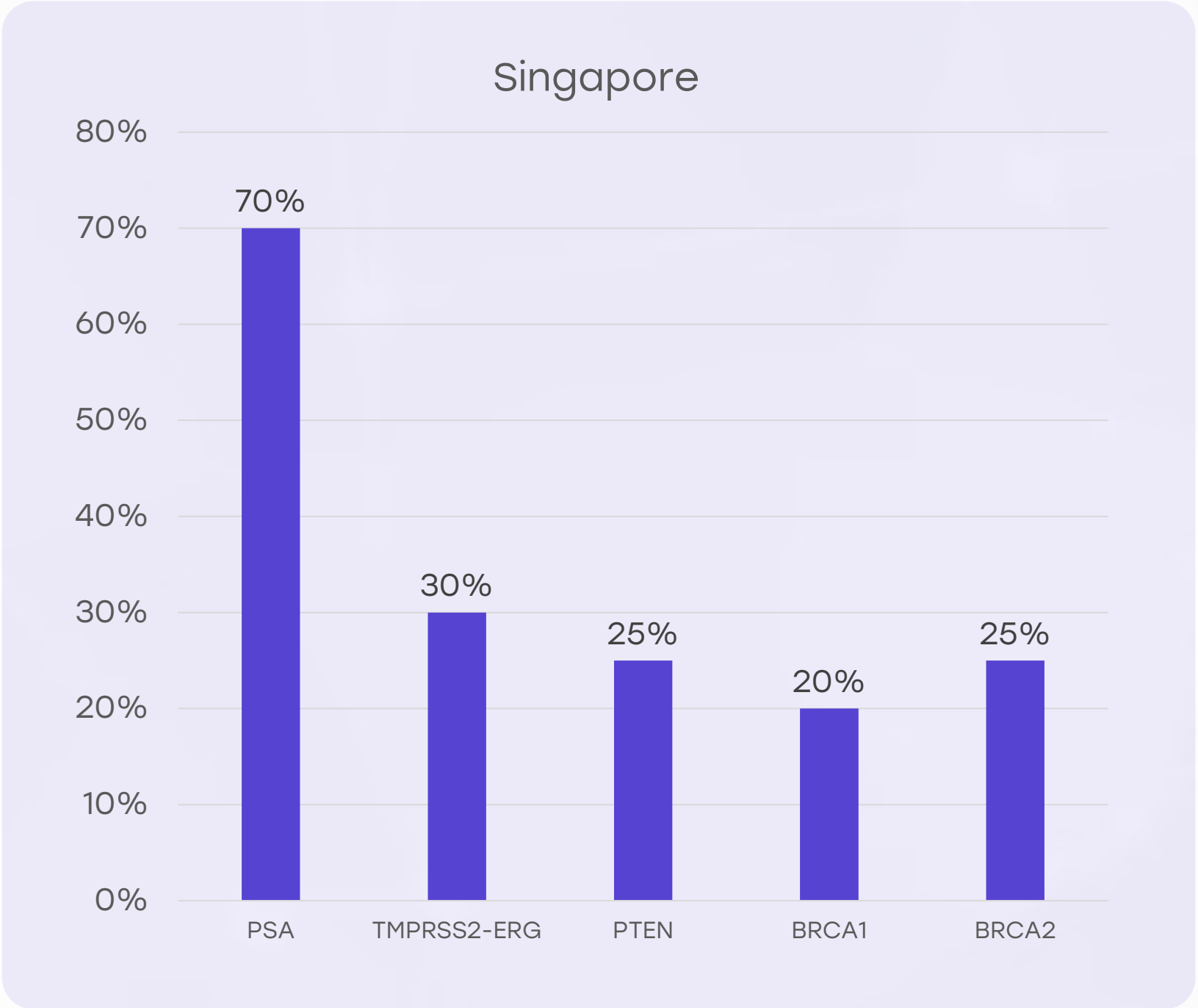
Weakness

- Free-PSA and genetic panels (~PHP 30k–80k) are mostly out-of-pocket.
- Lack of clear national guidelines for imaging (mpMRI) or genomic testing.

Threats

- Reliance on commercial labs may introduce variability and cost barriers.
- Misinformation around PSA accuracy may result in over-testing or avoidance.

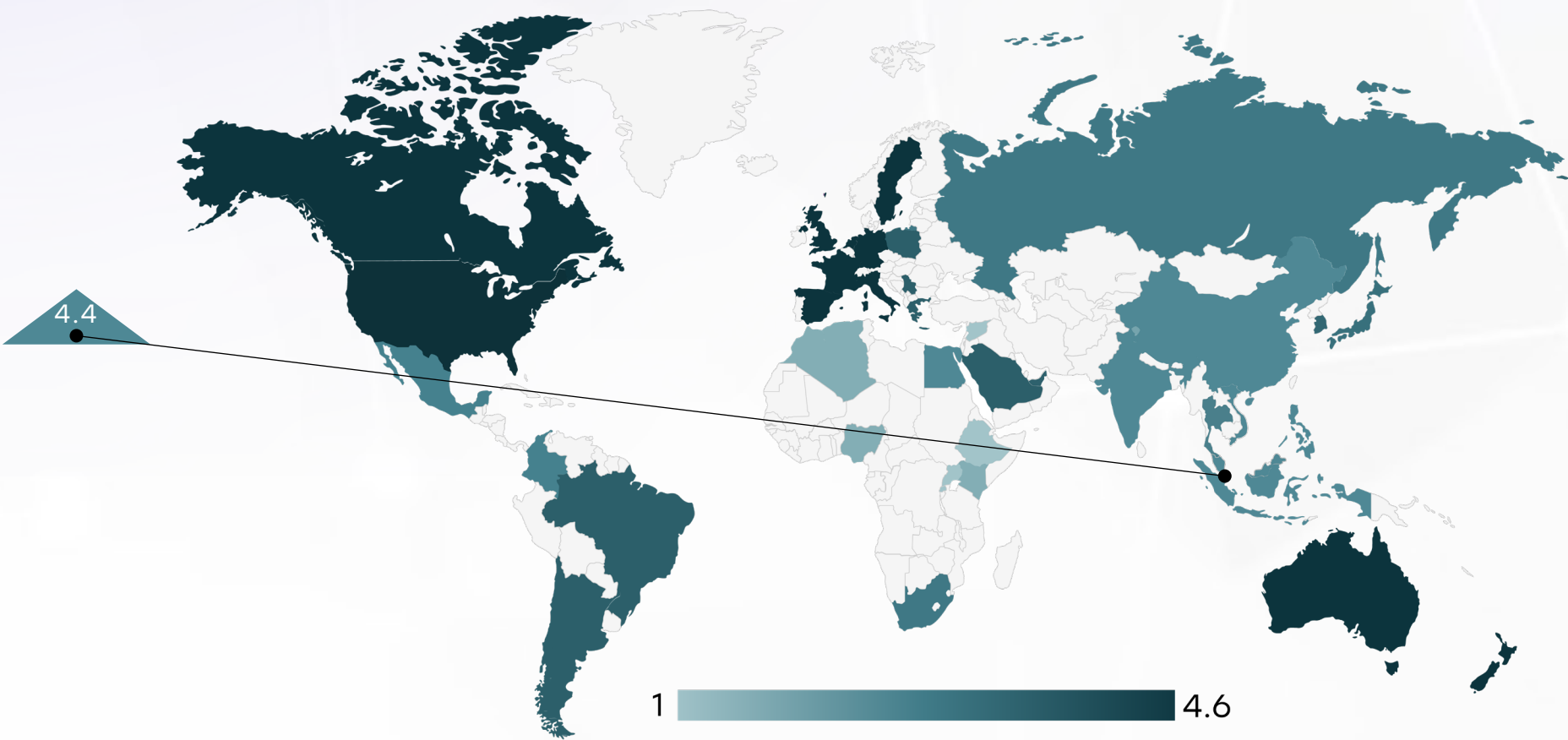
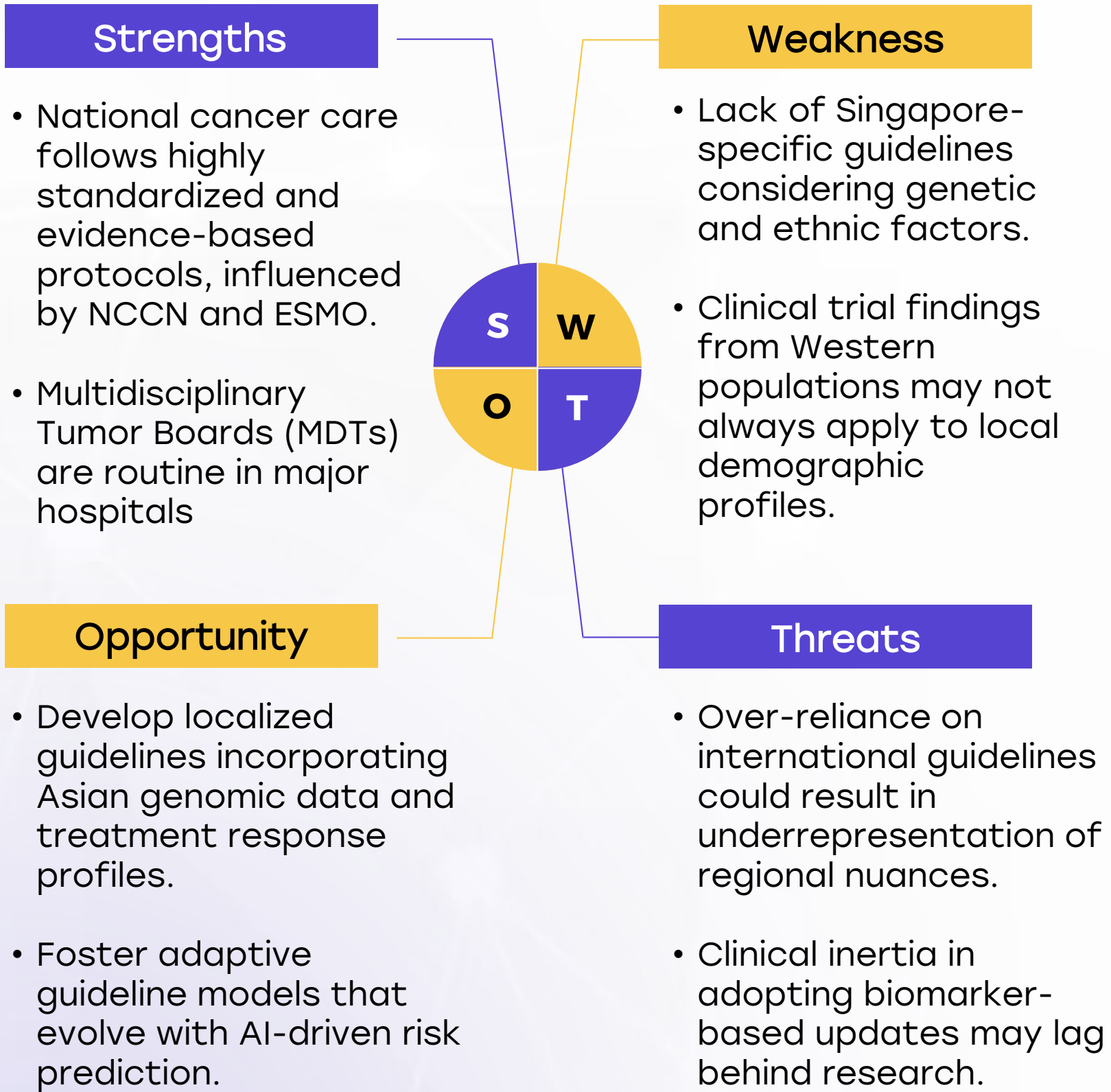
-  Moderate utilization, often restricted to major hospitals or private healthcare settings. Some patients may not receive biomarker testing due to cost or limited availability in public healthcare systems.
-  Biomarker testing is available but underutilized, with significant barriers such as high costs, lack of awareness, or limited infrastructure. Many patients may not receive recommended biomarker assessments.
-  Biomarker testing is rarely performed, often due to lack of infrastructure, awareness, or financial barriers. Patients typically do not receive targeted therapies based on biomarker status.



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Clinical Guidelines



	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Clinical Guideline Implementation	○	✗	✗	✗	✗
Feasibility of Integration	○	✗	✗	✗	✗
Adoption of International Guidelines	○	✗	✗	✗	✗
Engagement with Updates	✗	✗	○	✗	✗
ESMO Guidelines Implementation	✗	○	✗	✗	✗

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Reimbursement



Strengths

- Government schemes like MediShield Life and MediSave cover major portions of prostate cancer treatment.
- Subsidies available for low- and middle-income Singaporeans, reducing financial toxicity.

Weakness

- Molecular diagnostics and genetic testing (BRCA1/2, PTEN) often fall under private care or co-payment.
- Complex subsidy tiering can be confusing and lead to underutilization of entitlements.

Opportunity

- Include advanced biomarker testing in public coverage under means-tested frameworks.
- Pilot bundled payment models for prostate cancer care episodes.

Threats

- Aging population may increase burden on national health insurance schemes.
- Possible cutbacks in reimbursement for newer therapies if cost-effectiveness thresholds aren't met.



A structured reimbursement system exists, ensuring biomarker testing is covered through national healthcare systems, insurance, or public-private partnerships. Patients face no direct financial burden.



A reimbursement framework is in place, but patients may still have out-of-pocket expenses such as co-pays, limited coverage, or financial caps on testing.



No formal reimbursement system exists, meaning patients must fully cover the cost of biomarker testing out-of-pocket.

Country	Reimbursement Framework	No-cost Access
United States		
United Kingdom		
Canada		
Australia		
Germany		
France		
Netherlands		
Sweden		
Italy		
Spain		
Poland		
Japan		
South Korea		
China		
India		
Singapore		
Thailand		
South Africa		
Kenya		
Nigeria		
Egypt		
Morocco		
Algeria		
Ethiopia		
Mexico		
Brazil		
Argentina		
Chile		
Colombia		
New Zealand		
Greece		
Rwanda		
Uganda		
Serbia		
Saudi Arabia		
UAE		
Syria		
Indonesia		
Vietnam		
Philippines		
Russia		
Malaysia		

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Prostate Cancer Screening



Country	Prostate Cancer Screening
United States	Annual LDCT (50-80 years, high-risk smokers)
United Kingdom	LDCT for high-risk individuals (55-74 years)
Canada	LDCT for high-risk individuals (55-74 years)
Australia	No national program, high-risk groups advised LDCT
Germany	No national program, under evaluation
France	No national LDCT screening
Netherlands	Participating in European screening studies
Sweden	No national LDCT screening
Italy	Regional pilot LDCT screening
Spain	No national LDCT program
Poland	No national program
Japan	No national LDCT program
South Korea	LDCT for high-risk individuals (50-74 years)
China	No national LDCT program
India	No national LDCT program
Singapore	No national LDCT program
Saudi Arabia	No national LDCT program; some hospital-based opportunistic screening
UAE	No national LDCT program; early-stage pilot studies ongoing in select hospitals
Syria	No national LDCT program; screening not prioritized due to conflict
Malaysia	No program; high-risk CT pilots

Country	Prostate Cancer Screening
Thailand	No national LDCT program
South Africa	No national LDCT program
Kenya	No national LDCT program
Nigeria	No national LDCT program
Egypt	No national LDCT program
Morocco	No national LDCT program
Algeria	No national LDCT program
Ethiopia	No national LDCT program
Mexico	No national LDCT program
Brazil	No national LDCT program
Argentina	No national LDCT program
Chile	No national LDCT program
Colombia	No national LDCT program
New Zealand	No national LDCT program
Greece	No national LDCT program
Rwanda	No national LDCT program
Uganda	No national LDCT program
Serbia	No national LDCT program
Indonesia	No national LDCT program; opportunistic screening in private sector
Vietnam	No national LDCT program; early pilot screening studies in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh
Philippines	No national LDCT program; feasibility and awareness programs under discussion
Russia	No formal national LDCT program; regional pilot screening programs in large cities