

GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF UNLICENSED ANTINEOPLASTIC AND IMMUNOMODULATING MEDICINE USAGE SUBGROUPS IN TURKEY

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OBJECTIVES

The Turkish Medicines and Medical Devices Agency (TMMDA) gives permission of unlicensed medicine use by patient basis. Authorized wholesalers including Turkish Pharmacists' Association (TPA) can import the drugs based on the TMMDA's permission. These medicines are reimbursed by the Social Security Institution (SSI), the main reimbursement agency in Turkey Until 2014 when wholesalers were also authorized, pharmaceuticals under this status could only be imported by the Turkish Pharmacists' Association (TPA). The aim of this study is to understand the trends in L subgroups (Antineoplastic and immunomodulating agents) of ATC classification system unlicensed medicine consumption between 2011 and 2013 when the TPA was the only authorized supplier.

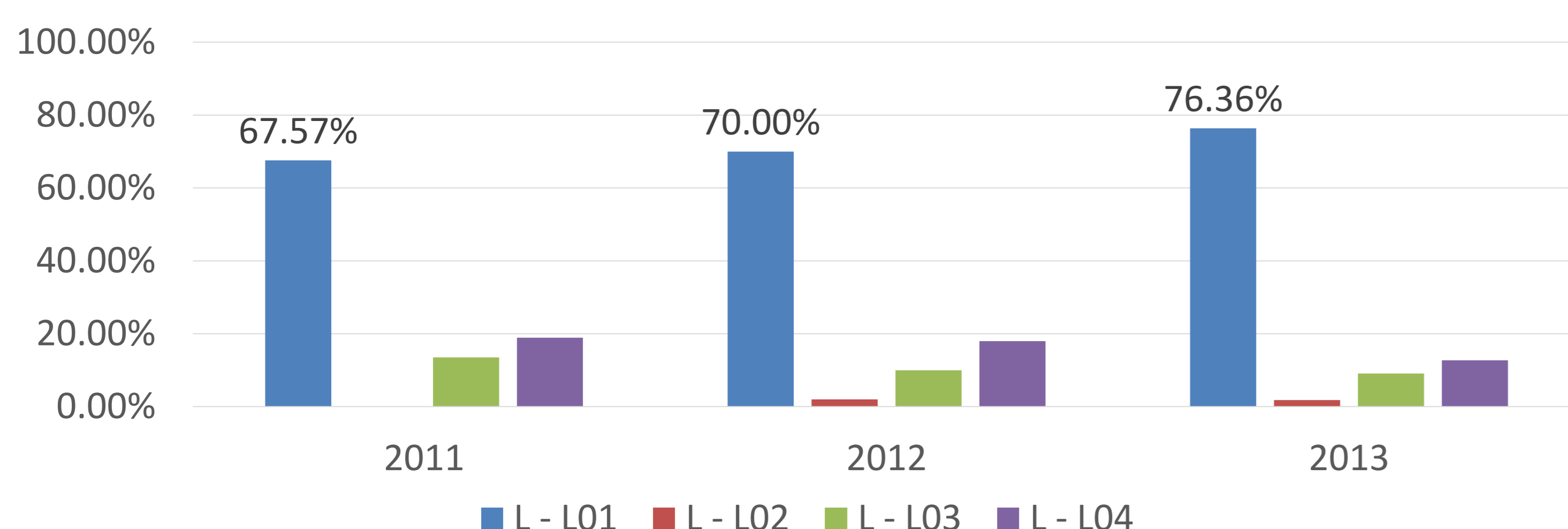
METHODS

Consumption data of L sub-group in the top 100 imported unlicensed medicines with the highest sales share in total expenses of imported off-label use was taken from the TMMDA computer database. L01, L02, L03 and L04 were taken as subgroups. Descriptive analysis was conducted.

RESULTS

The analysis showed that the L01 had the highest percentage of active ingredients among subgroups L with 67% share in all L group medicines. The percentage of L01 rose from 67% to 76% between 2011 and 2013.

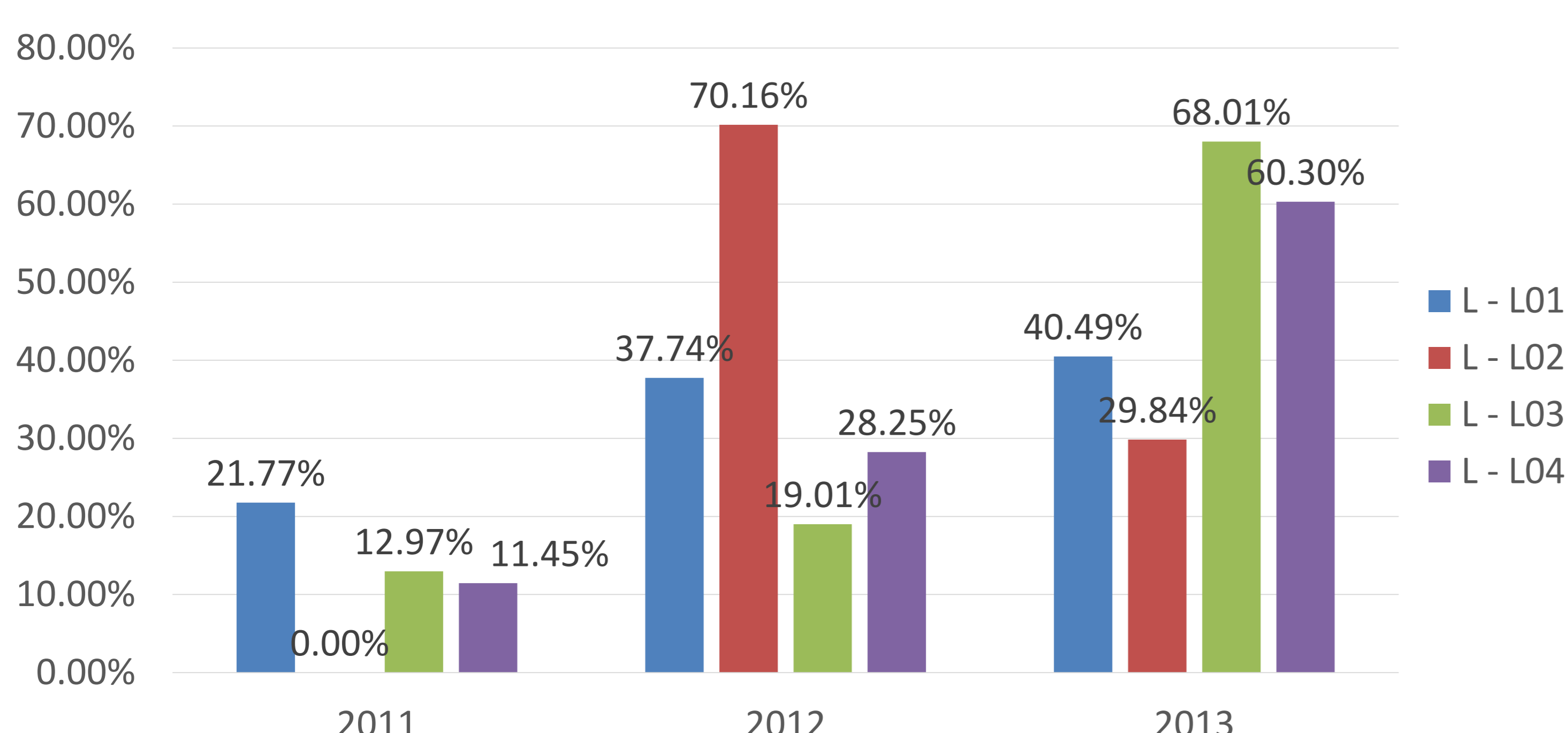
Figure 1: Ratio of number of active ingredients in the subgroups of group L between 2011 and 2013



L01: Antineoplastic agents / **L02:** Endocrine therapy / **L03:** Immunostimulants / **L04:** Immunosuppressants

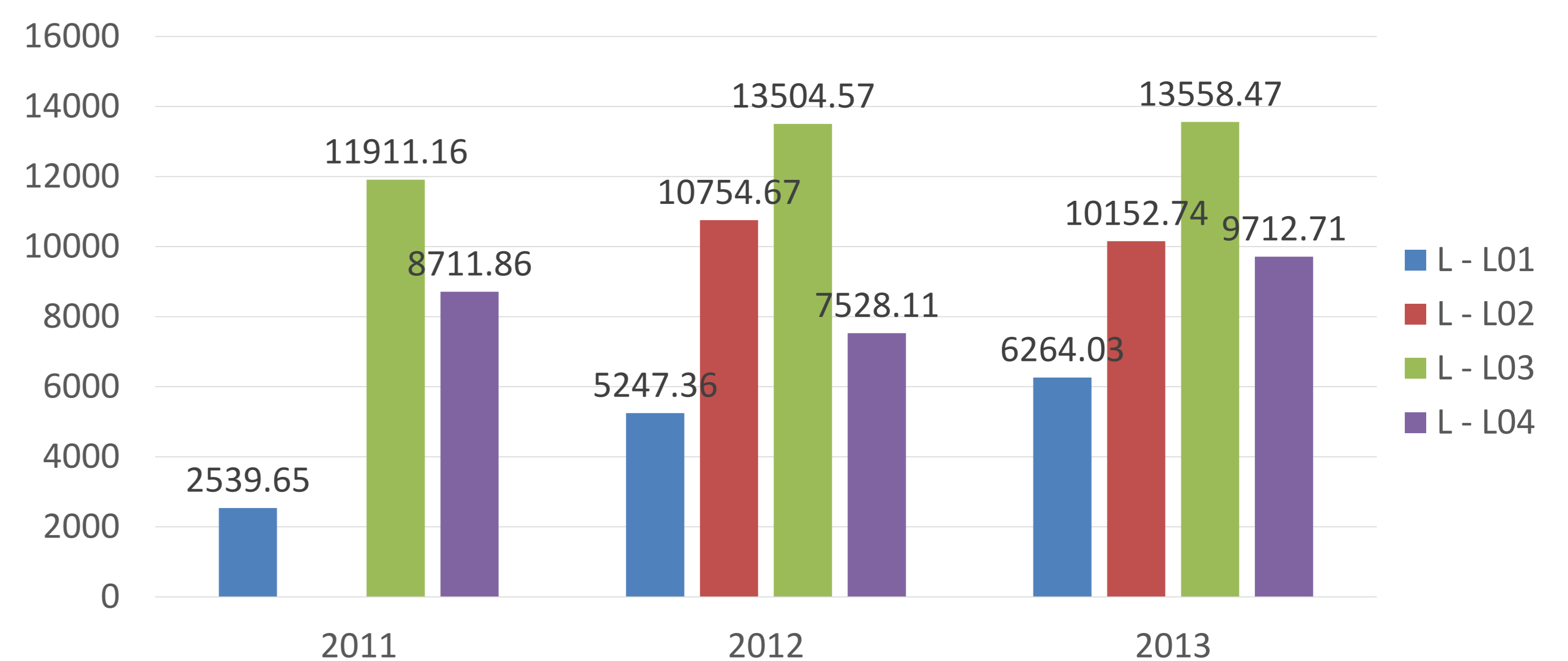
Although group L01 constitutes the major subgroup in terms of number of active ingredients, this sub group doesn't have the major share in terms of volume.

Figure 2: Subgroups distribution between 2011 and 2013 in terms of volume (%)



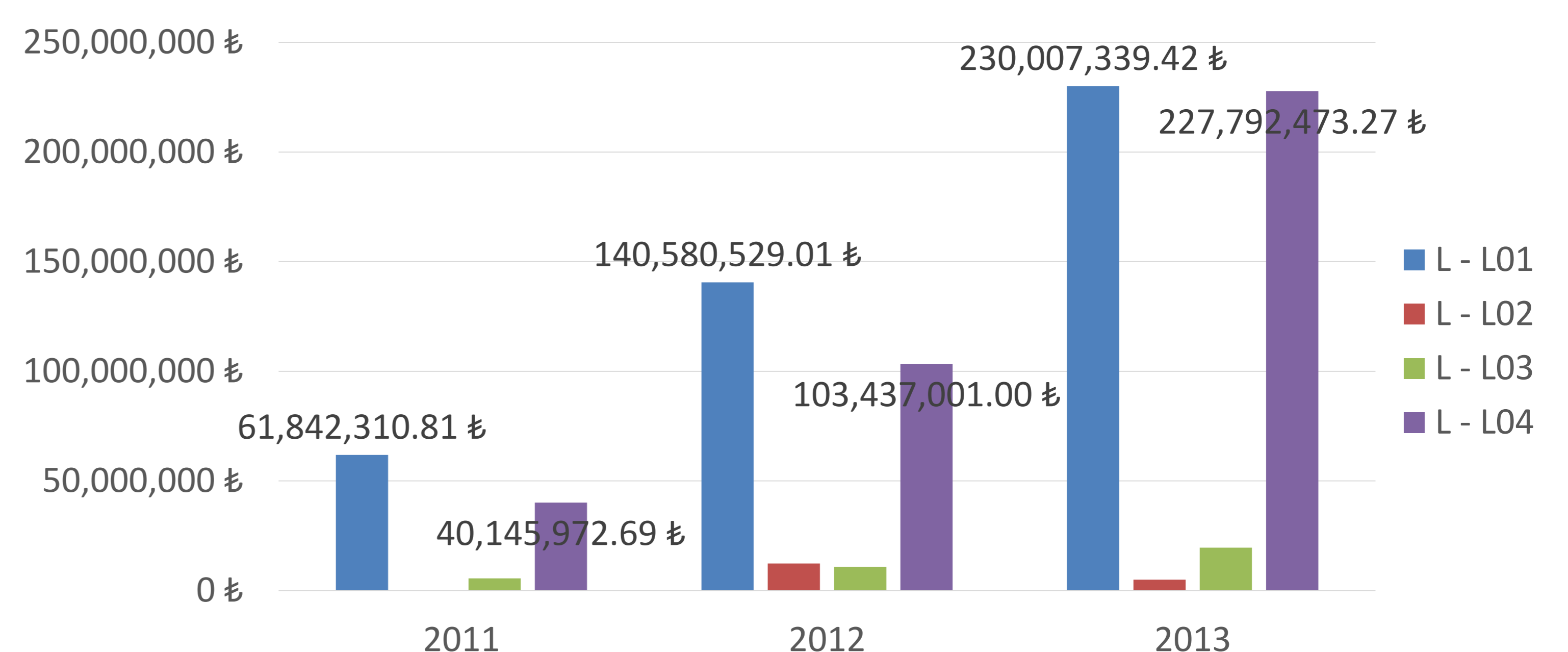
During this time period the average box cost of L01 rose from 2539.65 TL to 6264.03 TL.

Figure 3: Average box costs of subgroups of group L between 2011 and 2013 (TL)



The total consumption of L01 in terms of TL rose from 61 million TL to 230 million TL with the highest percentage of unit sales as well.

Figure 3: Average box costs of subgroups of group L between 2011 and 2013 (TL)



CONCLUSIONS

The cost of imported medicines used in off-label use is increasing every year in Turkey.

Among top 100 imported unlicensed medicines, group L medicines constitutes the biggest share in terms of both volume and TL. As the total cost of imported unlicensed medicines increases every year in Turkey, the cost of group L increases accordingly.

Therefore, some cost-containment measures (especially for L01-antineoplastic agents) should be taken to reduce the increasing cost without risking the patients' access to these innovative medicines.