

# GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF UNLICENSED ANTINEOPLASTIC AND IMMUNOMODULATING MEDICINE USAGE 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 group (Antineoplastic and immunomodulating agents) of ATC classification system unlicensed medicine consumption between 2011 and 2013 when the TPA was the only authorized supplier.

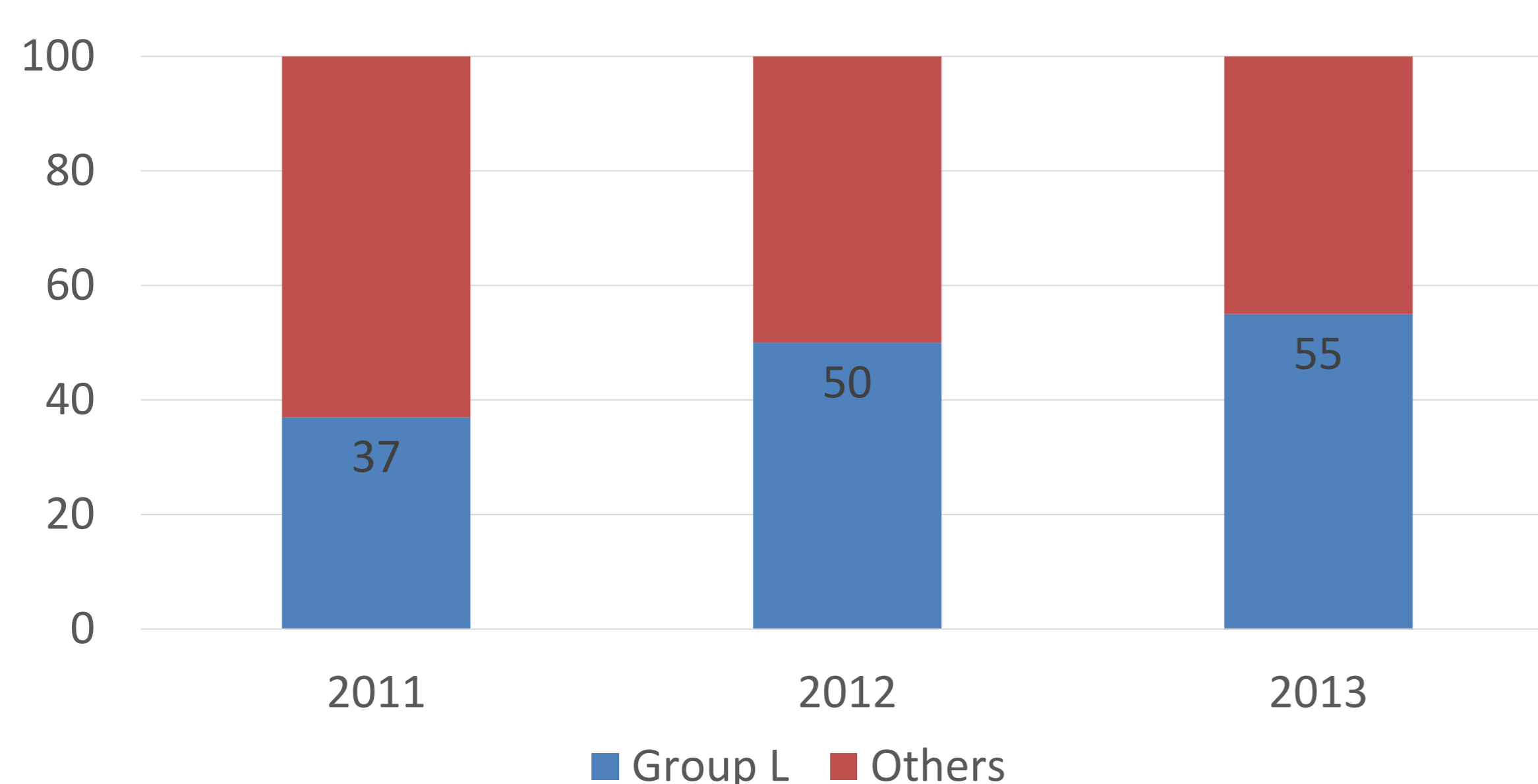
## METHODS

Consumption data of L 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. Descriptive analysis was conducted.

## RESULTS

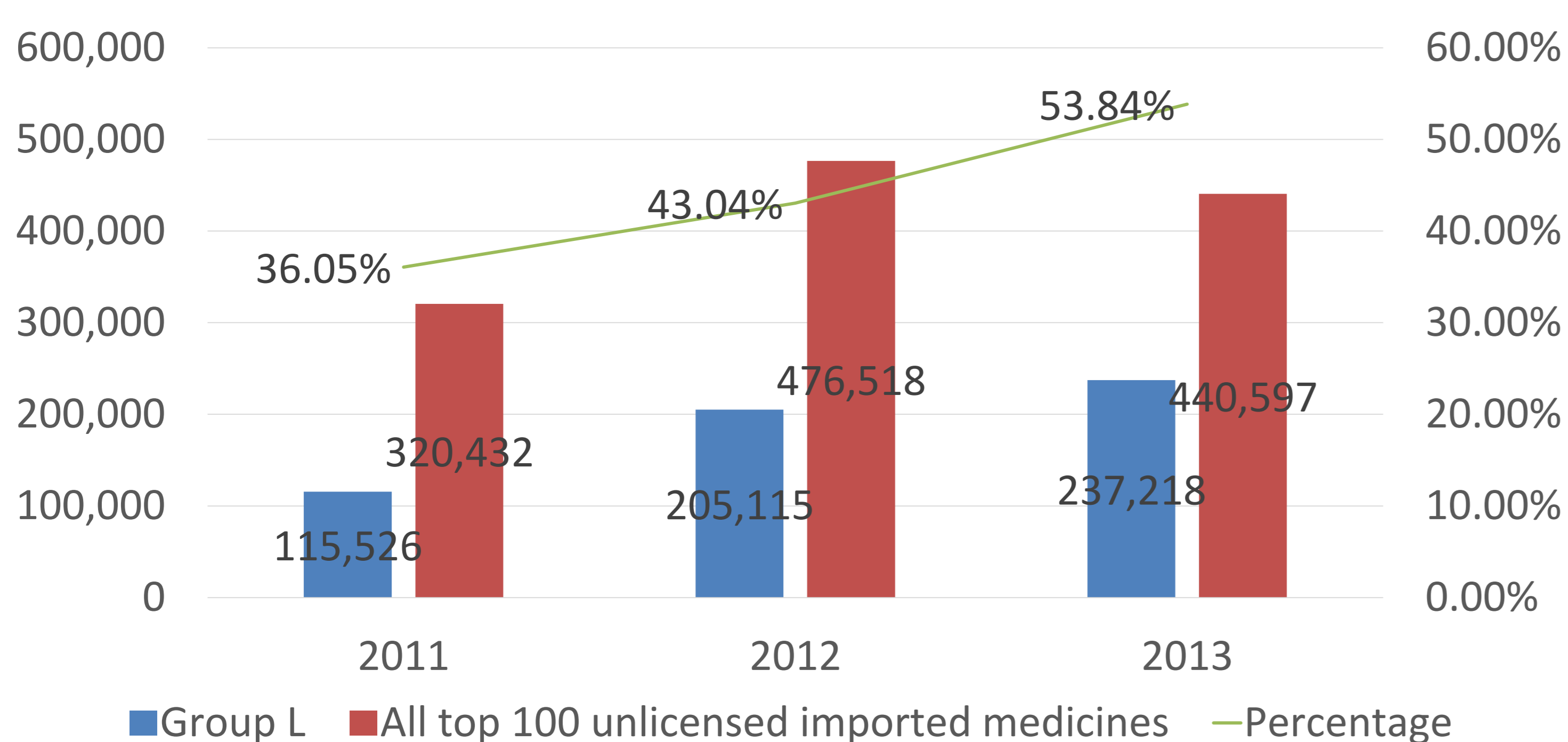
The analysis showed that the numbers of active ingredients of L group in the top 100 rose from 37 to 55, between 2011 and 2013.

**Figure 1:** Number of active ingredients of L group within the all top 100 imported unlicensed medicines between 2011 and 2013



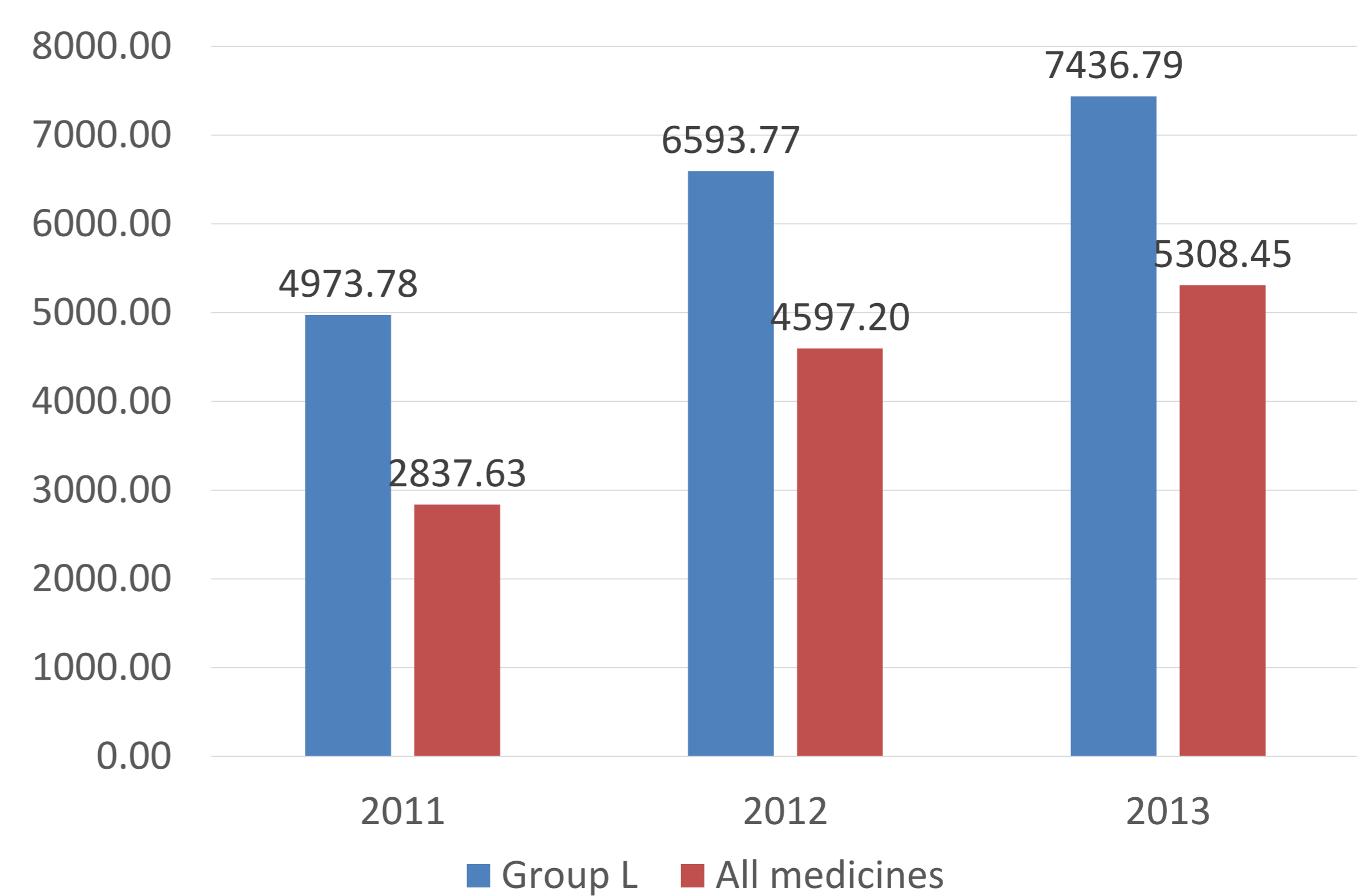
The numbers of L group in the top 100 rose from 37 to 55, between 2011 and 2013.

**Figure 1:** Share of group L in the total consumption of top 100 unlicensed medicines between 2011 and 2013 in terms of volume



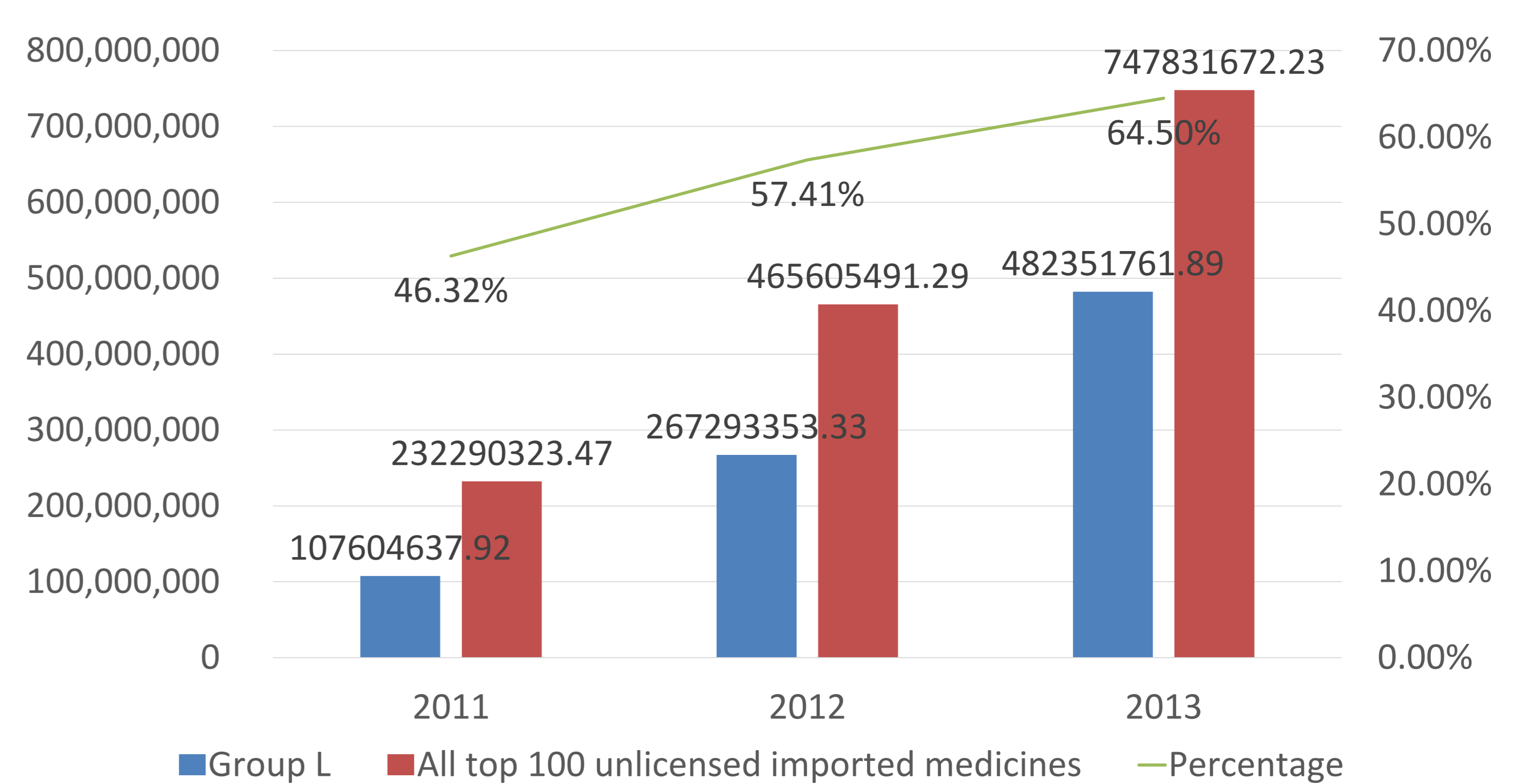
The average cost per box of imported unlicensed medicines in the group L increased from 4,973 TL to 7,436 TL in the same period.

**Figure 3:** Average box cost of imported unlicensed medicines in group L between 2011 and 2013 (TL)



The total consumption of the unlicensed medicines in L group increased from 107 billion TL to 482 billion TL.

**Figure 4:** Share of group L in the total consumption of top 100 unlicensed medicines between 2011 and 2013 in terms of TL



## CONCLUSIONS

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 antineoplastic medicines) should be taken to reduce the increasing cost without risking the patients' access to these innovative medicines.