

Incidence

Around 47% of cancer cases and 55% of cancer deaths occur in less developed regions. (1)

Incidence of cancer is 15% for men in higher developed regions and 8% higher in women

Cancer kills more people each year globally than AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined, the number of cancer deaths are increasing rapidly. (2)

Female breast, stomach, prostate, liver, colorectal and cervical cancers constitute more than 58% of the estimated global cancer burden. (3)

Female breast cancer is the only cancer which is common in all regions, regardless of their levels of development (3). This said, lung cancer is the most common cancer worldwide. For men in many countries it is the leading cause of cancer deaths and for women the most common form of cancer death in North America, parts of Europe and China. (3)

30% of cancer deaths are linked to 5 behavioural and dietary risks: high body mass index, low fruit and vegetable intake, lack of physical activity, tobacco use and alcohol use. (4)

Tobacco use alone is the most crucial risk factor in causing cancer deaths, it is responsible for over 20% of global cancer deaths and 70% of global lung cancer deaths. (4)

Other leading risk factors for cancer in low-and middle-income countries are chronic infections from hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV) and some types of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). Cervical cancer, which is caused by HPV, is a leading cause of cancer death among women in low-income countries. Up to 20% of cancer deaths are due to infection by HBV and HPV. (4)

Over 1.6 million new cases of breast cancer were diagnosed worldwide last year, a major conference in Glasgow has been told (6)

Care

Only 5% of global spending on cancer is in the developing world (1)

Predictions

In 2008 the number of new cases was 12.7 million, if cancer specific trends continue as expected then by 2030 there will be an increase in annual incidence of cancer to 22.2 million (3)

Different Cancers

Cancer is a leading cause of death worldwide, accounting for 8.2 million deaths in 2012. The main types of cancer are:

- Lung (1.59 million deaths)
- Liver (745 000 deaths)
- Stomach (723 000 deaths)
- Colorectal (694 000 deaths)
- Breast (521 000 deaths)
- Oesophageal cancer (400 000 deaths) (1).

Prevention

30% of cancers could be prevented.

Currently almost 4.2 million people per year die prematurely (aged 30 to 69 years) due to the disease across the world

“Despite exciting advances, this Report shows that we cannot treat our way out of the cancer problem,” states Dr Christopher Wild, Director of IARC and co-editor of the book. “More commitment to prevention and early detection is desperately needed in order to complement improved treatments and address the alarming rise in cancer burden globally.”⁽⁵⁾

In 2012, the worldwide burden of cancer rose to an estimated 14 million new cases per year, a figure expected to rise to 22 million annually within the next two decades. ⁽⁵⁾

The spiralling costs of the cancer burden are damaging the economies of even the richest countries and are way beyond the reach of developing countries, as well as placing impossible strains on health-care systems. In 2010, the total annual economic cost of cancer was estimated to reach approximately US\$ 1.16 trillion. Yet about half of all cancers could be avoided if current knowledge was adequately implemented. ⁽⁵⁾

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