Title: Experience and Challenges Encountered in Establishing Cancer Care Clinic in a County Referral Facility in Kenya

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Introduction/Background

- Cancer is the second leading cause of death globally,
- 70% of the global Cancer burden is in low and middle income countries.
- Cancer is the 3rd highest cause of morbidity in Kenya with 60% younger than 70 years old
- **70-80% of cancer cases are diagnosed in late stages due to:**
  1. Lack of awareness;
  2. Inadequate diagnostic facilities;
  3. Lack of treatment facilities;
  4. High cost of treatment;
  5. High poverty Index.
Methodology

- In line with the National Cancer Control Strategy-To reduce cancer incidence, morbidity, mortality, cancer down staging and survival rate in Kenya through:  
  - access to population based primary prevention,  
  - early detection,  
  - quality diagnostics,  
  - treatment and palliative care services.
Methodology

- We aimed to do this in the county of Kakamega.
- This was followed up with series of meetings between the hospitals managements (Kakamega County General Teaching and Referral Hospital and AMPATH) to establish needs required and support needed to have oncology services in the facility.
- The clinic started running in February 2018-Launched with a massive breast and cervical screening service at the facility.
Results/Findings

- **Leadership** was a key focus to drive the vision and provide support.
  - The hospital had a working palliative care clinic and oncology services was just beginning.
  - Though the hospital management had committed to provide personnel, building space and equipping the clinic resources need were lacking or inadequate.
- There was a major need for **skilled trained staff**. AMPATH facilitated their training at MTRH-Chandaria Cancer Center and still provides continued training and mentorship by AMPATH/MTRH Oncology staff.
Results/Findings

- **Equipment’s for diagnostics** i.e. pathology was significantly lacking and **pharmacy lacked sufficient drugs**. Though the hospital was able to get cancer drugs for most common cancers and a biosafety cabinet for drug preparation, supply is still a challenge. Currently AMPATH is still supporting the hospital in pathological services and drugs supply.
Results/Findings

- A high number of patients don’t have medical cover and financing for diagnosis and treatment is challenging. There is support for such patients currently through AMPATH program not only to access care but also getting medical insurance cover.
Conclusions/Recommendations

- Challenges encountered can be mitigated if to enable the country reduce its cancer morbidity and mortality burden. Therefore the need for partnership with primary healthcare facilities.
Thank you...