

FACTORS PRESENT IN LATE-STAGE PRESENTATION OF PATIENTS WITH CANCER OF CERVIX AT OCEAN ROAD CANCER INSTITUTE, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA.

Mr Mwangi MHOKA:¹ RN, MscN; Oncology Marie Gorethi Uwayezu:² MscN Oncology, phd fellowship, Assistant lecturer: Prof Margaret Isabela Fitch³ PHD: Oncology (Canada) Lecturer: School of nursing and midwifery, College of Medicine and Health science: University of Rwanda

BACKGROUND

Cervical cancer is the 4th most frequently diagnosed cancer and 4th leading cause of death from all cancer with an estimate of 570000 cases and 311000 deaths worldwide. Approximately 90% of cervical cancer related deaths is from LMIC. It is estimated that by 2030 cancer of cervix will kill more than 443000 women yearly worldwide and most of them will come from LMIC.

AIM

The purpose of this study was to report the factors that are present with the late-stage presentation of cervical cancer among women in Tanzania.

OBJECTIVE

The study was guided by four specific objectives, namely to determine individual factors; to determine community factors; to determine institutional factors; and last to determine public policy factors present with the late-stage presentation of cervical cancer among women in Tanzania.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted at the Ocean Road Cancer Institute in Dar es Salaam. It utilized a descriptive cross sectional research design. The populations for this study were women with cervical cancer stage IIB-IV and health care workers working for ORCI. The researcher used structured questionnaires to collect quantitative data from the two groups. SPSS software was used to analyze data and results (frequencies and percentages) are presented through tables.

RESULTS

The study identified (1) age, marital status, education status of patients, occupation of patients, lack of health insurance, and poverty as socioeconomic, demographic and clinical characteristics of respondents present with late-stage presentation of cervical cancer among women in Tanzania; (2) limited knowledge of cervical cancer symptoms, ignorance of causes of cervical cancer, lack of practicing gynecological examination as individual level factors present with late-stage presentation of cervical cancer among women in Tanzania; (3) inability of women to make own decision on issues related to their health, and

religion discouraging women from being diagnosed by male physicians as community level factors present with late-stage presentation of cervical cancer among women in Tanzania; (4) limited screening and diagnosis services, insufficient health care providers, insufficient screening and diagnosis equipment, insufficient funding, and inadequate knowledge of cervical cancer among the HCPs as institutional level factors present with late-stage presentation of cervical cancer among women in Tanzania; and (5) insufficient fund for cervical cancer screening and diagnosis services and poor communication of policy and regulations governing screening services to stakeholders at all levels as policy level factors present with late-stage presentation of cervical cancer among women in Tanzania.

RECOMMENDATION

The study highly recommends integrated methods of sensitization and screening campaigns across the country also require intensive study of quality of cervical cancer screening according to WHO guideline to assess the gap on health care providers