

Newly diagnosed cancers in garissa refferal general hospital-Kenya

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Background: Kenya is an East African country. North Eastern province is one of the eight provinces in Kenya. Overall population estimated to be 2, 385, 572 and it is unevenly distributed in the area which is 126, 906 km². The area is mostly inhabited by the pastoralist community of ethnic Somali origin. The only general hospital for the province is located at Garissa town hence the catchment area. Earlier reports indicated that cancer is the second cause of death in Kenya. However, there is no data concerning the incidence, prevalence and mortality of cancer in north eastern province. Hence there is a need for analysis and publishing of hospital registered data.

Objective: The main aim of this study is to analyze the data of newly diagnosed cancer patients in Garisa Referral general hospital of the north eastern region of Kenya.

Methods: This study involved a review of all available histopathological reports beginning from Jan 2008 up to Aug 2012 from Garissa General Hospital. All reports of newly diagnosed cancers were abstracted and analyzed according to gender, age, type of cancer and ethnical background. The age groups of the study were <14, 15-19, 20-44, 45-64, 65>. Stastical analysis was performed using the SPSS software package.

Results: The total number of newly diagnosed cancer patients was 217. The numbers were increasing every year starting from 35 in 2008, 40 in 2009, 39 in 2010, 45 in 2011 and 58 in 2012. The most affected age groups were 20-44 (31%) and 45-64 (30%). Oral and esophageal carcinoma was the leading type of cancer with 51% followed by hepatocellular carcinoma 9% and the rest types of cancer with lower rates. Most affected age groups of oral cancer were 45-64 (36%) and 65>(34%). Males were the most affected with male to female ratio being 1. 3:1 respectively.

Conclusion: Newly diagnosed cancer cases were increasing every year since Jan 2008 and the leading ones being oral and esophageal cancer in the catchment area of Garissa General Hospital, North Eastern province.

Recommendation: There is need to carry a community based researches rather than hospital based ones in order to investigate the real picture of oral and esophageal cancer in Garissa district.

Biography

Abdulrizak Hudow Hassan is currently a third year medical student at international university of Africa-Khartoum Sudan. He is a member of the American Association of Cancer Research. Under the supervision of Dr. Mohammed (currently at King Khalid university-Saudi Arabia) he has published an article in The Bulgarian Journal of Science Education on fatty acid synthase complex.