

3rd Global Meeting on **ONCOLOGY AND RADIOLOGY**

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THE AGONY OF A CANCER PATIENT IN AFRICA, AND NIGERIA IN PARTICULAR.**Ganiyu Adewale Adefulu***Oncology Medical Center Ososa, Nigeria.*

According to WHO, Nigeria, an estimated 72,000 cancer deaths occur annually, and 102,000 new cases are diagnosed from its population of 200 million people. The most common cancers in Nigeria are cancers of the breast and cervix in women and cancer of the prostate in men. The health organization also records that approximately 70% of deaths from cancer occur in low- and middle-income countries, of which Nigeria is one. Also, the mortality ratio of cancer in Nigeria when compared to other nations is really high because, for example, 19% of all breast cancer cases in the US result in death, this percentage is 51% in Nigeria.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

This is as a result of indiscriminate use of carcinogenic substance in farming and uncurbed industrial pollution. It's no surprise that air pollution has been linked with lung cancer. A new study suggests that pollution is also associated with increased risk of mortality for several other types of cancer, including breast, liver, and pancreatic cancer (Globocan 2020). I am a lawyer by profession, a farmer and trader by occupation. My understanding of scientific words may not be apt, but I have a common sense to know that most of the banned fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides in developed world are being diverted to African market for single purpose of profit and business substance of the exporting countries.

2. LACK OF LEGISLATION

Apart from Indiscriminate use of poisonous substances for farming and production of other consumables, importation of cheap substandard item into Africa without legislation or control is another factor. Poverty, population explosion and lack of employment have made people to eat and drink anything available. This has led to increase in people with health challenges i.e hypertension, diabetes and a whole lot of self-inflicted deceases.

3. DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT CAPACITY AND CAPABILITIES

Diagnosis is a big challenge in Nigeria and Africa at large with the country having only 8 public and 1 private comprehensive cancer care centers. 99% of the cancer patient that our foundation profiled were wrongly diagnosed, dishonestly exploited by the "medical practitioners" while under treatment, many died on their second session of chemotherapy treatment. The country only has 8 public and 1 private comprehensive cancer care centers. It is also a known fact that we have fewer oncologist doctors and other trained personnel in the field of oncology. We lack trained oncologist nurses and chemotherapist. This has given room for quackery in this field of medicine in Africa. The patients who are already under the trauma of being inflicted with cancer are condemned to death in our part of the world before they eventually go to the world beyond.

Biography

Ganiyu Adewale Adefulu

Oncology Medical Center Ososa, Nigeria.

ganiyadefulu@gmail.com