

## Malignancies; Regional Feature

Defining the cancer feature in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) is based on some special activities such as establishment of Comprehensive National Program for Cancer Control (CNPCC) responding to 'health promotion', 'cancer prevention', 'cure', 'palliation' and 'stewardship' aspect. Cancer registry is the corner stone of this activity.

In the EMR countries cancer registry is going on in different ways such as hospital based or reference laboratory based cancer registry. In some countries estimation of cancer situation is by epidemiological modeling and conducting vertical researches.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, Cancer Registry is a part of Health Delivery System since 40 years ago but it is well organized at year 2002 based on laboratory registration with coverage of more than 80%. Now the data are available in published format annually and community registry as a pilot project is being carried out in some provinces. CNPCC is ready but not fully implemented yet.

According to available data in Iran, incidence rate of cancers is 1 per 1000 (70,000 new cases annually) comparing to 15 and 12 in the United State and Western Europe, respectively. In the World Health Organization documents it is clear that the number of cancer cases will rising up rapidly in particular in developing countries. In EMR countries it will become 1.8% during next 15 years (Rastgoy et al). 70% of this rising is due to aging of the population and demographic changes. There is no standard program for prevention and palliation in Iran. Therapeutic guidelines are not implemented enough and curative measures are not institutionalized, so everything is individual and the lack of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) system is the main challenge in the region as well as Iran to provide care for cancer patients because of the dominancy of inappropriate new technologies.

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