Cervical Cancer Treatment: Challenges of Access and IAEA Role in Closing the Gap

TogetHER Webinar Series

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WHO Global Strategy for eliminating cervical cancer

By 2030

- **90%** coverage of HPV vaccination of girls (by 15 years of age)

- **70%** coverage of screening with high-performance HPV test (between the ages of 35 and 45 years)

- **90%** treatment of precancerous lesions and management of 90% of invasive cancer cases.
A holistic approach to addressing cervical cancer will have the fastest impact toward elimination.

Global Inequity in Access to Cancer Care

An estimated shortfall of over 5,600 radiotherapy machines in LMICs

Source: IARC GLOBOCAN, IAEA, 2018
Radiotherapy is essential for curing invasive disease. 5 out of 7 cervical cancer patients are recommended to receive radiotherapy (alone or in combination with other treatments).

NEW CASES: 570,000 (2018)

DEATHS: 310,000 (2018)

Sources: IARC World Cancer Report 2014; IARC GLOBOCAN 2018
IAEA Role in Cancer Control

Prevention

Early Detection
- X-Rays
- Mammography
- CT Scan

Diagnosis and Treatment
- Nuclear Medicine
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Radiotherapy

Palliative Care
- Palliative Radiotherapy

Registration and Surveillance

IAEA

Radiation Medicine for cancer management

Radiation Safety and Security forces

IAEA + Partners Comprehensive Cancer Control Strategy

WHO-IAEA Joint Programme on Cancer Control

UN Joint Global Programme on Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control

Source: IARC GLOBOCAN 2018
PACT undertakes joint efforts with other partners in cancer control.
60+ years experience in introducing, expanding and improving nuclear and radiation medicine services in developing countries

Over EUR 172 million have been disbursed by IAEA since 2011 in support of cancer-related projects

Around 115 active cancer-related technical cooperation projects provide support to Member States
Impact of imPACT Reviews

- Facilitate evidence-based decision making and prioritization
- Move towards robust comprehensive cancer control planning
- Inputs to Strategic Documents:
  - National Cancer Control Plans
  - NCD plans
  - Radiotherapy Plans
  - Programmatic proposals
  - Funding proposals
- Reviews include specific recommendations on cervical cancer
Common challenges identified through imPACT Reviews (1)

• Need for **long-term cancer control planning**, with a resource mobilization strategy & a multi-disciplinary approach

• **Access to cancer services** depends not only on availability of infrastructure and equipment. Sustained planning of adequate workforce, quality care and safety, geographical accessibility, financial affordability and associated stigma, play a major role

• **Compliance** with most-recent **evidence-based guidelines** in cancer control is required to enable most effective and efficient use of resources for the desired health benefits
Common challenges identified through imPACT Reviews (2)

- Need **to prioritize cost-effective interventions** (e.g. HPV vaccination; screening and early treatment for cervical cancer)
- Very high **late presentation of cervical cancer** cases at treatment centers, mainly due to low coverage of early detection services and inadequate referral system
- Ensure a **balanced approach in cancer control investments** - cervical cancer early detection programmes are not always coupled with appropriate treatment services
- **Enhance coordination** and linkages with complementary public health programmes: HIV/AIDS and reproductive health
Women’s Cancers Partnership Initiative

- Expansion of national breast- and cervical cancer awareness raising programmes;
- Development of national preventive and early cancer detection programmes;
- Training/education of over 100 cancer care professionals;
- Upgrading of over 40 cancer care facilities through procurement of tools and equipment;
- Establishment of Quality Assurance and Quality Management systems.

If comprehensive breast and cervical cancer prevention, diagnostics and treatment services were available in all developing countries, millions of lives could be saved over the next decade.
Leveraging Partnerships

• Engagement with WHO and other UN partners, e.g. UNAIDS, UNITAID

• IAEA, together with seven UN organizations, is part of the Joint Global Programme on Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control
Thank you!
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