Cancer in Setif area: Incidence, trend, survival and political impact

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Introduction

Cancer is one of the major public health problems in Algeria. In the last 25 years, a significant increase in the incidence of the major cancer sites was observed in both sexes, and it is likely associated to an epidemiological transition.

The Setif Cancer Registry provided significant informations and contributed to the epidemiologic research, and to policy making in health planning.

Methods

Cancer Registry of the Setif, Wilaya, Algeria, has been recording cancer incidence, mortality and survival since 1986. Data are recorded by means of CANREG5, developed by the IARC. The analysis is made with (SEER * Stat) and Join Point, in collaboration with National Cancer Institute Aviano, Italia.

Results

In men the incidence of lung, colorectal, bladder, prostate, and laryngeal cancers has significantly and steadily increased in the most recent decades. In women, the incidence of breast, colorectal, thyroid and lung cancers has also increased significantly.

The 5-year survival is below 50% for the main tumors and can be ascribed to a difficult access to cancer care and to an incomplete health care framework for cancer patients.

Conclusion

A large proportion of these cancers can be prevented; others can be detected at an early stage, to fight effectively against this serious disease, which weighs heavily on the economy.

In order to optimize the Cancer Plan, several key elements should be emphasized: the advancement of cancer registries, tobacco control, screening programs, and early detection.

Our hope is the 2014-2020 Cancer Plan which instituted under the aegis of the President of the Algerian Republic in December in order to effectively fight cancer.