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Preventive Oncology
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Burden of gynecological cancer and inequity in cancer care in developing world

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The gynecological cancer burden in developing countries is huge. Approximately 1:4 of all cancers in women in developing countries is a gynaecological cancer. According to international agency for research on cervical cancer (IARC) 2008, 53% of the 12.7 million new cases of cancer and 63% of all the 7.6 million deaths occurred in developing countries. Three decades earlier, developing countries accounted only for 15% of global cancer burden. A report based on IARC / GLOBOCAN 2002 world cancer statistics estimated that by the year 2020, about 10.25 million new cases of cancer would be diagnosed in developing countries. Ovarian cancer is the second most common cancer, accounting for 18.8% of all gynaecological cancers in developing countries. Vaginal cancer constitutes less than 2% worldwide, with 68% being in developing countries. Vulval cancer constitutes 3% of gynaecological malignancies in the developed world vs. 41.4% in developing countries. Choriocarcinoma represents 0.6% of gynaecological malignancies worldwide, with 96.4% occurring in developing countries, highest incidence being in South East Asia. There is vast disparity in health care for gynaecological cancers worldwide. Developing countries have more infectious morbidity with limited resources, lack of tumour registries, poor infrastructure of health departments, limited diagnostic and treatment facilities, and lack of computerized databases to facilitate follow-up. Only 5% of the world's total resources for cancer control reach the developing world. It is the responsibility of international health organizations, as well as resource rich countries to provide capital resources, mentorship & training to aid developing countries to control cancer burden.

Biography

Haleema A Hashmi completed MRCOG from Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecology (RCOG), UK in 1980 and was awarded FRCOG in 1993 from RCOG, UK. She was awarded Fellowship of College of Physicians & Surgeons of Pakistan (FCPS) in 2004. She worked as an Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor at Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi, Pakistan from 1982 to 2004, after which she worked as a Professor & Head of Department at Baqai Medical University, Karachi, Pakistan from 2004 to 2007. Since 2007, she has been leading the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at Liaquat National Hospital & Medical College, Karachi, where she is presently the Academic Head of the Department. She has been a Fellow Member of the Representative Committee of RCOG in Pakistan for the last 5 years. In addition, she is an Executive Member of the Society of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of Pakistan (SOGP), Member Asia and Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (AFOG), International Federation of Gynaecology & Obstetrics (FIGO) and Member International Urogynaec Association (IUGA), USA.

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