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Molecular basis of anti-inflamatory strategies in cancer cachexia

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Background: There are newer diagnostic and therapeutic armamentaria for pri mary lung cancer. Application of molecular genetics in lung cancer management is evolving rapidly. However, the traditional knowledge and practices that were applicable before the 1980s still hold sway in most developing countries.

Aims and Objectives: This research was conducted to highlight the staggeri ng gap in the current aetiopathology and management profile of primary lung cancers and to assess the readiness of developing world for the chal lenges of lung cancer management in the new decade.

Methods: We studied the patients referred to Lagos University Teaching Hospital with suspicion of primary lung cancer. We noted their bio-dat a, predisposing factors and final diagnosis on completion of investigations. We also noted the therapeutic modalities that were applied - especially the type of operation that was done for each of the patients.

Results: The research lasted 99 months beginni ng in October 1999 and 267 patients were enlisted. There were 148 males (55.4%) and 119 females (44.5%). Stage IV patients were 183 (68.5%) while only 3 patients were found at stage I. Histology showed squamous cell carcinoma in 27.7% of cases while adenocarcinoma constituted 64.0%. Curative surgery was performed for 13.1% while non curative surgery was performed for 16.5%. Correlation between smoking and malignancy was stronger among the males than the female patients.

Discusion and Conclusion: There is increasing incidence of primary lung cancers among non-smoking females.