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Trends of cervical cancer in Ethiopia

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Introduction: Cervical cancer is a leading cause of mortality worldwide. According to the 2009 World Health Organization (WHO) report in Ethiopia 7619 annual number of new cases and 6081 deaths every year. Despite this fact, very few women receive screening services in Ethiopia.

Material and methods: Data on new cases of cervical cancer registered annually at the cancer registry of the Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital (TASH) over a period of sixteen years were obtained and analyzed for trends using SPSS Version 20.

Results: There were 5293 new cases of cervical cancer registered at the cancer registry during the the16 year period. The peak age of incidence was between 40-49 years. Most of the cases were found in Addis Ababa, where the hospital is situated. An increase in trend of cervical cancer case was observed.

Discussion: The number of cases per regions depended on their distance from Addis Ababa unrelated to population size. This may be due to poor awareness, most women were present with the late stage of cervical cancer.

Conclusion: There is the need to step up activities on vaccination, screening programs and training on self-awareness for the community.

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