

CANCER MAGNITUDE IN SHAM COUNTRIES

Khatib S.¹, Al-Tarawneh M.²

(1) King Hussein Institute for Biotechnology and Cancer

(2) Ministry of Health, Jordan

Corresponding Author:

Dr. Sami Khatib

Senior Assistant Director General, King Hussein Institute for Biotechnology and Cancer (KHIBC), Amman, Jordan

E-mail: skhatib@khIBC.jo

Objective

This study was designed to present and highlight some epidemiological characteristics of cancer in Sham countries

Methodology

Epidemiological data on cancer in Sham countries as in many Arab countries are limited. In this study we searched Pub Med, Medline, WHO, Globocan and MECC publications, national cancer registries and abstracts where it is available. We analyzed available data on some epidemiological characteristics of cancer in Sham countries and compared it to other Arab countries (KSA, Oman, Kuwait, Egypt, and Tunisia).

Results

It was found that cancer of all sites is more predominant in females with a male to female ratio less than 1 in all Sham countries except in Syria where it is the reverse. The median age at diagnosis of cancer in all Sham countries is within the range of 52-56 years. The age standardized rates for males (ASR per 100,000 male populations) in Sham countries are as follow (Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine-west bank, 113, 179, 166, 128, respectively), it is higher than that in KSA, Oman, but less than that in Egypt. The same was found for the ASR in females. The five leading cancers among men in Sham Countries are: Jordan; colo-rectal (11.4%) leukemia (11.2%) lung (10.7%) urinary bladder (8.1%) prostate (7.6%) Lebanon as follow: Prostate (16.5%) urinary bladder (16%) lung (15%) colorectal (7.9%) and lymphoma 4.8%. In Palestine-West bank as follow: lung (12.4%) lymphoma (9.6%) colorectal (9.2%) prostate (9.1%) and urinary bladder (8.4%). In Syria, the five leading cancers among men as follow Lung (11.8%), urinary bladder (9.8%), Colorectal (9.6%), prostate (9.3%), N.H. Lymphoma (8.1%). Whereas among women the 1st rank cancer in all Sham countries is the breast cancer with relative frequency as follow (Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, 34.8%, 40.2%, 27.2%, respectively) except in Syria where the uterus cancer is the 1st (32.6 %). The 2nd is colorectal (Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, 9%, 7.6%, 27.6%, 9.4%, respectively). ASR for colo-rectal cancer was found to be similar for all Sham countries and approximately the same for men and women (7 for men and 6 for women, also it's similar to ASR in KSA, Oman Egypt and Tunisia (except Lebanon 15.5 for men, 14.2 for women per 100,000 populations its similar to that found in Kuwait. ASR for lung cancer is 4 times higher in males than females in all Sham countries. The ASR for bladder cancer is higher in males than females in all Sham countries with a range from 1.3-4.8). The other cancers (stomach, lymphoma, leukemia); the ASR is higher in males than females. The ASR for prostate cancer was found to be similar in all Sham countries and the Arab countries included in the analyzes. The highest ASR for breast cancer was found in Lebanese females (69.2/100.000) meanwhile the lowest rate was found in Syria (31.2/100.000).

Conclusions and recommendations

Cancer incidence is on the rise in all Sham countries as in other Arab countries where incidence rates for both men and women is increasing. Comprehensive cancer control programs are highly needed. Inter-countries cooperation and collaboration is recommended