



GIANT TUMOURS: REFLECTION OF THE SOCIAL AWARENESS TOWARDS CANCER AND CURRENT NEED

Oncology

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KEYWORDS

Early seeking of patient to the oncologist or physician with a suspicious diagnosis of cancer is an important prognostic factor in adding to improve the outcome and is comfortable for as oncologist as for the patient. Cancer death has contribution as 6-8% of all deaths worldwide.[1] Since 1987, the Indian Cancer Society has been conducted more than 5000 cancer awareness programs. The common symptoms like a lump, sore, bleeding, hoarseness, weight loss, persistent cough, etc., push the patient to seek prompt medical attention.

After pain, lump or swelling is the most common symptom which is the presentation in cancer patients. The large tumour, more chances to come into notice as a danger signal of a progressive cancer. However, presentation of cancer patients with large size tumour is a matter of concern, needed to be improved. Our observation at a Regional Cancer Centre over a period of half decade of patients presented with cumbersome large tumours (size ≥ 10 cm) revealed the significant burden of giant tumours. A number of 102 patients were seen with giant tumours out of around 400 patients with surface malignancies.[Images] The median age of patients was 59 years (Range, 43-86). Median duration of complaint was 22 months (range 9-63 months). These patients were more associated with lower socioeconomic class, low literacy and rural background.



A 3-year male baby presented with large mass arising upper lip(19X15X12cm), diagnosed as leiomyosarcoma



A 43-year female presented with a large (35x 28cm) mass with skin ulceration involving whole breast, diagnosed as invasive ductal carcinoma



A 53-year male presented with large swelling over anterior neck (21X16cm), diagnosed as follicular neoplasm thyroid



A 37-year male presented with large scalp swelling (18X13X12cm), diagnosed as dermatofibrosarcoma protuberance



A 50-year male presented with large swelling over left shoulder, diagnosed as fibrosarcoma



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Over the past few decades, in developing world, the health facilities have been dramatically improved. The advancement in technique, availability of health facilities at small levels and human resources, significantly improved. The stage migration in all kinds of solid tumors has well evident from advance to early stage disease. However, with some invisible unavoidable faults, a proportion of cancer patients with a well-known danger signal. Progressive large tumour, an alarm to the cancer societies in future

Acknowledgment

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REFERENCES

1. Ferlay J, Shin HR, Bray F, Forman D, Mathers C, Parkin D. Estimates of worldwide burden of cancer in 2008: GLOBOCAN 2008. *Int J Cancer* 2010; 127: 2893–917. <http://www-dep.iarc.fr/WHOdb/WHObd.htm> (accessed Sept 3, 2011)