

International Cancer Control Partnership (ICCP) ECHO

for Countries Implementing their National Cancer Control Plan

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Improving Service Delivery through Changes in Systems - Reducing time from diagnosis to treatment

April 20, 2022 Session

1. What strategies in your NCCP address reducing time to diagnosis and/or time between diagnosis and treatment?

Table 5: Strategic Objectives, Specific Objectives, and Key Interventions for Early Detection.

| Strategic Objective | Specific Objective | Key Interventions |
|--|--|--|
| 2.0 To reduce the proportion of patients presenting with advanced cancer | 2.1 To increase coverage of cervical, breast, prostate and colorectal cancer screening services. | 2.1.1 Develop a National Cervical Cancer Elimination Plan. 2.1.2 Develop and implement comprehensive national screening guidelines for breast, prostate, and colorectal cancers. |
| | 2.2 To increase rate of early diagnosis of cancers not amenable to screening. | 2.2.1 To develop and implement national guidelines for early diagnosis of cancer. |
| | 2.3 To increase rate of early detection of childhood cancers | 2.3.1 To develop and implement national guidelines on screening of retinoblastoma 2.3.2 To train health workers in early diagnosis of childhood cancers. 2.3.3 To sensitize the community about early signs and symptoms of childhood cancers. |

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| 2.4 To integrate cancer early detection interventions into primary health care services | 2.4.1 To include cancer early detection services in the minimum health care package. 2.4.2 To include early diagnosis of childhood adolescent and adult cancer in the Uganda Clinical Guidelines 2.4.2 Promote the use of cancer referral guidelines |
| 2.5 To build human resource capacity for cancer early detection services in Uganda. | 2.5.1 Train health workers on cancer early detection and proper referral. |
| 2.6 To develop a network of local government and community leaders trained and motivated to support early detection services | 2.6.1 Sensitize local government and community leaders to support cancer early detection |
| 2.7 To strengthen the coordination of cancer early detection services in Uganda. | 2.6.1 To establish a state of the art cancer early detection center at the Uganda Cancer Institute |

Table 8: Strategic Objectives, Specific Objectives and Key Interventions for Diagnosis and Treatment

| Strategic Objective | Specific Objective | Key Intervention |
|--|---|--|
| 3.0 To improve access to accurate cancer diagnosis, staging and effective treatment. | 3.1 Establish a comprehensive cancer diagnosis and staging services | 3.1.1 Establish a state-of-the-art National Cancer Reference Laboratory. |
| | | 3.1.2 Establish a comprehensive cancer radiology service. |
| | | 3.1.3 Establish a comprehensive nuclear medicine service. |
| | | 3.1.4 Establish basic cancer imaging and diagnostic services at Regional Cancer Centers. |
| | | 3.1.5 Establish pathology and analytical laboratories in all Regional Cancer Centers. |
| | | 3.1.6 Establish comprehensive psycho-social (psycho-oncology) services for patients with cancer and their families |
| | | 3.1.7 Establish a specialized comprehensive nutrition service for patients with cancer |

The COVID-19 pandemic affected time to diagnosis and/or time between diagnosis and treatment for cancer patients in many countries.

2. What are the lessons learned that you could continue to implement?

- Leveraging technology (social media, zoom, google meets etc.)
 - Whatsup group established with northern Uganda, Tumour Board migrated to online platform
- A dedicated cancer center protected from Covid related disruption
- Emphasized importance of partnerships for care

Our Question(s) to Our Colleagues for Discussion

- What additional strategies to reduce time to diagnosis and or treatment in your country?
- What positive experiences have you had from the Covid