

LETTER TO EDITOR

Universal Health Coverage for Cancer in Asia

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Dear Editor

There is wide disparity in the diagnosis and treatment of cancers in low-middle income countries which are mostly due to lack of awareness, socio-economic conditions, and difficulty to access the facilities for cancer diagnosis and treatment. This year's theme for World cancer day was "not beyond us" (UICC, 2015). Prof. Tezer Kutluk, President of the Union for International Cancer Control pointed out the necessity to work for multisectorial coordination by liaising with governments, leaders, stakeholders and individuals around the world to press for change to happen across the continuum of cancer care. In the light of that, the steps initiated to achieve universal health coverage (UHC) for cancer in the Asian continent are praiseworthy (Akaza et al., 2015). There are economic concerns regarding the modalities of treatment and sites of cancer that are to be included within the UHC framework. It may be mentioned that, the framework to achieve the goal of UHC for cancer will differ from one country to another in Asia. Moreover, affordable health care remains a major challenge in this part of the world for effective cancer control (Goss et al., 2014). The socio-political aspects in the Asian continent are heterogenous and so efforts towards convincing governments, political leaders and other stake holders in each country should be undertaken by leading researchers in oncology and medical professionals of that country, whose efforts will be supported and complemented by a consortium like the UICC. The goals of UHC for cancer for now appear a difficult proposition but determined and sustained effort will definitely take us there.

References

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