

HOSPITAL BASED CANCER REGISTRY

Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram

Dr Paul Sebastian, Director & Principal Investigator
Dr Aleyamma Mathew, Professor of Cancer Epidemiology & Statistics (In-charge)

The Hospital Based Cancer Registry (HBCR) of the Regional Cancer Centre (RCC), Thiruvananthapuram started in 1982 under the network of National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The RCC is an exclusive cancer specialty hospital established in 1981 and today caters to nearly 16,000 new patients in Kerala, which is one third of the new cancer patient load in one calendar year in the State of Kerala. The RCC also caters to patients from the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu and the neighbouring countries such as the Maldives (approximately 1,500 new cancer patients per year).

The data abstraction and entry for invasive cancers are done using an in-house developed web based software “rccintranet.org”. The demographic details are collected and entered into the computer at the time of new patient registration at RCC and transferred to the core-proforma of NCRP. The data transfer avoids manual documentation of the first part (demographic details) of the NCRP core-proforma. The second part (diagnostic, treatment and follow-up details) is entered using the above software after retrieving case-sheets from the RCC medical records. All variables in the core-proforma except age and various dates are directly selected from a selection box in the hyper text mark up language (HTML) form. The selection box contains all the codes along with the descriptions for each variable. The selection box corresponding to the variables topography and morphology contains the third edition of International Classification of Diseases for Oncology (ICD-O-3) and the latest edition of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10).

The database is subjected to a series of consistency checks to ensure that valid codes are entered using in-house software. The data are edited based on the error list of cases obtained using the above check program. After editing, the data are sent to the Coordinating Unit of the NCRP (ICMR), Bangalore in an electronic format and subjected again to various checks there such as range, consistency, unlikely, duplicate etc. Necessary corrections are done based on the error list of cases sent by the coordinating unit.

- Since its inception in 1982 (n=3,696), the RCC has been recording increasing number of patients and in 2012-2013 there were 29,637 patients (15,020 males and 14,617 females) which is 300% more than in 1982.
- Among 29,637 patients in 2012-13, 89% (n=26,358; 13,061 males and 13,297 females) of cases were invasive, 0.4% (n=105) were in-situ and 0.9% (n=266) were borderline malignancies. Date of diagnosis was 2012-13 for 24,259 (92%) cases and the remaining cases had their date of diagnosis in the previous years. Average age at diagnosis of cancer cases was 54.5 years (SD: 17.6 years) in males and 50.1 years (SD: 16.5 years) in females.

- Among males, lung cancer (14.4%) was the leading site followed by cancer of the oral cavity (13.7%) and among females, cancer of the breast (28%) was the leading site followed by cancer of the thyroid (14.4%).
- Children (0-14 years) constituted 2.9% of all cancers. In children, leukemia (23.6% in males & 17.8% in females) was the predominant cancer in both genders. 10% of all cancers were in the age group 15-34 years. In this age group, the leading cancers were leukaemia in males (26.2%) and thyroid cancer in females (40%). 62% of all cancers were in the age group 35-64 years. In this age group, the leading cancer sites were oral cavity in males (15.5%) and breast in females (34.5%). 25% of all cancers were in the age group 65+ years. In this age group, the leading cancer sites were lung in males (18%) and breast in females (18.9%).
- The proportion of tobacco related cancers (oral cavity, pharynx, oesophagus, larynx, lung and urinary bladder) relative to all cancers was 42.2% in males and 12.5% in females.
- Among the cancer cases (n=26357), diagnosis by microscopic verification was available in 94.6% of males and 97% of females. Among the microscopically diagnosed cancer cases (n=25249), histology from primary site was available for 73.1% in males and 84.6% in females.
- Among the cancer cases, 18640 (70.7%) cases reported at RCC for the first time without any cancer directed treatment and the remaining cases (n=7717) had undergone partial treatment elsewhere before registration at RCC.
- Among the previously untreated cases, 69.3% of males, 66.8% of females had disease extending or spreading beyond the primary site of cancer. Among the previously untreated patients (n=18640), intention to treat was radical for 63.5% of patients. Among the previously untreated patients (n=18640), 75.4% received complete cancer directed treatment and among the patients who received first treatment elsewhere (n=7717), 53.2% received rest of the cancer directed treatment at RCC.
- Chemotherapy alone or combination with other modalities was the predominant form of treatment among the previously untreated patients (53%), as well as among the patients who received first treatment elsewhere (31.5%). Radiotherapy alone or in combination with the other form of treatment was 35.8% among the previously untreated patients and 27.3% among the patients who received first treatment elsewhere.

Staff of Registry

Assistant Professor in Bio-Statistics	:	Mrs Padmakumari Amma G.
Assistant Professor in Epidemiology	:	Dr Kalavathy M.C.
Associate Professor in Bio-Statistics	:	Dr Preethi Sara George
Clerk	:	Mrs Asha N.M.
Data Entry Operator	:	Mr Prasanthkumar R.K.