

Cancer Prevention; Emerging Infectious Diseases as Risk Factors, Regional Feature

Considerable achievements in the control of communicable diseases and improvement of life expectancy for population in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) are important factors that contribute to the increasing regional morbidity and mortality from noncommunicable diseases such as cancer.

Certain communicable diseases are still prevalent in the Region such as Hepatitis Viruses (HBV/HCV), schistosomiasis, and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) infection which are associated with increased occurrence of primary hepatocellular carcinoma, urinary tract neoplasia and cervical cancer respectively.*

Infection is responsible for less than 7% of cancers in developed countries while 26% in developing countries. In Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) totally 17.8% of cancers are caused by infections including Helicobacter Pylori (HP) 5.6%, HPV 5.2%, HBV and HCV 4.9%, EBV 1%, HIV 0.9%, schistosomiasis 0.1%, HTLV-1 and liver flukes less than 0.1%. More than 70% of infections related cancers in the EMR are related to HPV (27%), HP (23%) and HBV / HCV (20%).

Emerging the infectious agents in developing countries as one fourth of risk factors needs more attention and interventions. Managing these infectious diseases is of great importance in cancer control and prevention.

Mohammad E. Akbari Professor
of Surgical Oncology Editor in
Chief