



Cancer, Cost and Benefit

Cancer as the 3th cause of death in I.R.Iran, and 4th burden of diseases is one of the most important public health issue that should be into more consideration for all aspect of health management. In Iran, DALY (disability-adjusted life year) for malignant disease is around 450,000 years per year. It means that the national cost for this category of disease based on 6000 US dollars GDP is 2,700,000,000US dollars which actually is a large amount of cost for Iran's economy. Cancer would not be a silent disease and its growth rate is more than 8 per 100,000 per year. So its cost due to the disability and death may be more than mentioned cost.

Cost of surgery for cancer is more than 200 million US dollars per year. Last year we imported 300 million US dollars medicine for chemotherapy, and its marginal cost was more than 200 million US dollars.

Seventy percent of the cost is out of pocket and the rest by public resources. This amount of the cost and situation of cancer in Iran needs to be more sensitive for health management. Having an active-comprehensive cancer control program is necessary for prevention and treatment management, which now is a neglected subject.

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