

NATIONAL CANCER CONTROL STRATEGY: A KEY MOVE

At one time or another each family in Bangladesh would be felt by the shade of cancer. A lot of people die from the disease and among those a large number are still surviving with the subsequent effects of cancer. Revolutionary advances in our perception of cancer and its management are leading to noteworthy progress in the quality of care.

Cancer continues to increase as our people becoming older and the outcome of prosperous treatment modalities more people are now living with cancer than earlier. As cancer is no longer a death sentence today as it was before, care of cancer survivor became having significant importance. Accordingly our steps should echo the country and place it with utmost priority to fight this disease.

Our battle against cancer must be centered more on deterrence and plummeting the risk of community getting the disease. But this must be with the collective dependability from persons to modify aspects of their behaviors, such as smoking, to reduce their individual risk. Early diagnosis is the key answer, if we are to attain a standard cancer care. Screening and early diagnoses which have set in this plan, will allow easier and quicker access to cancer management.

We believe that this plan will work as a road map to a higher standard of care. Investment in modern radiotherapy with modern equipment such as Linear Accelerator will provide us surgery equivalent treatment technique such as Conformal Radiotherapy, Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy Treatment and Image Guided Radiotherapy; which will guarantee access to the best care. National Cancer Control Strategy and Plan of Action pledge the following things for the cancer patients:

- More will be done to help to reduce risk of developing cancer;
- An increased likelihood of cancer being detected earlier;

- Patient will have access to quality treatment at every stage of cancer journey;
- Whether anyone is living with or beyond cancer, information and support will be provided;
- Irrespective of who or what patient's background is, Govt. will work to give access to the best possible cancer experience and outcomes available in Bangladesh;
- We will keep striving to improve the quality of cancer services available;

These promises are at the heart of the 'National Cancer Control Strategy and Plan of Action'. We must thank Line Director, Non Communicable Diseases, DGHS, Director General of Health Services, Secretary and Honorable Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, NCCS Task Force, relevant stakeholders, UN Organizations, development partners and World Health Organization. This strategy provides a strong underpinning for how we will move forward. Health care professionals and managers involved in cancer and their commitment has made possible the steps forward on cancer already achieved.

This strategy seems to be ambitious program for cancer services over the next few years and but if all the stakeholders involved in cancer, as we implement the actions set out today, making real our dream of building a standard cancer control services in Bangladesh.

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