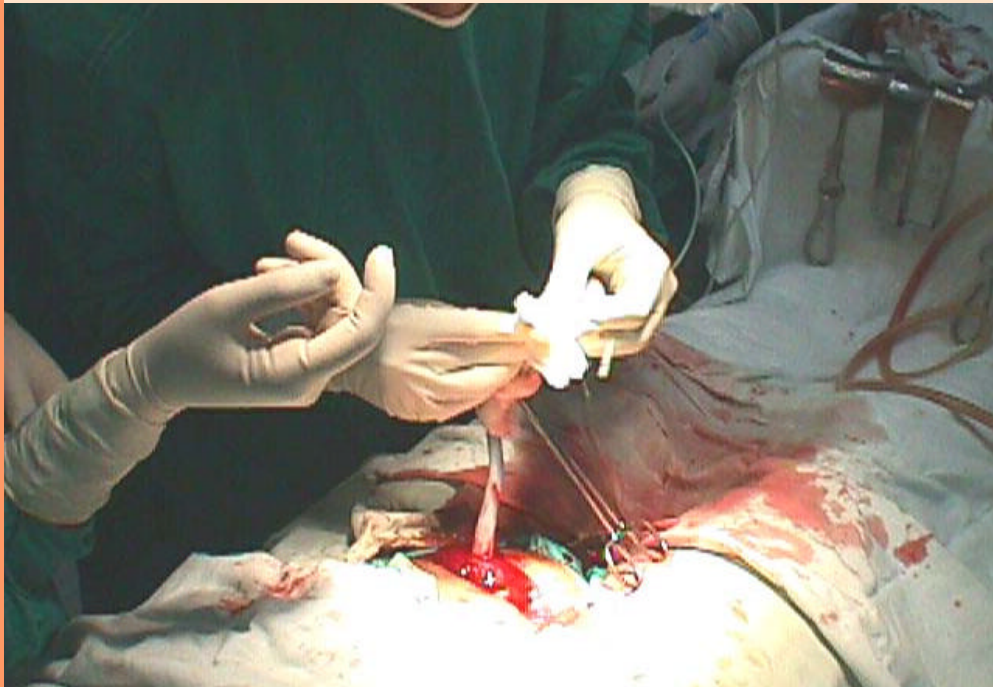




FIFTY YEARS OF CANCER CONTROL IN INDIA



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NATIONAL CANCER CONTROL PROGRAMME
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NOVEMBER 2002

PREFACE

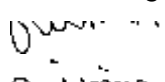
India became an independent nation in 1947 after a prolonged British rule. But, India like other developing nations could not get independence from various diseases. The communicable diseases were a major problem at that time and many of them still continue to be a cause of concern.

Over the last few decades, epidemiological transition is taking place and non-communicable diseases including cancer are increasing due to a variety of reasons. Developing countries are now cautioned to take appropriate steps to avoid the epidemics of non-communicable diseases associated with economic development and changes in the life styles/behaviour patterns. The impact of these diseases in terms of loss of lives, disablement, poverty and economic loss is enormous.

National Cancer Control Programme was initiated in 1975 with a view to provide the cancer treatment facilities in the country. The programme was modified in 1984-85 to provide thrust to prevention and early detection of cancer. Last year, on 7th November 2001, 'National Cancer Awareness Day' was observed to highlight the significance of increased awareness about cancer prevention and early detection for the general public.

Cancer has become one of the ten leading causes of death in India. It is estimated that there are nearly 2 to 2.5 million cancer cases at any given point of time. Over 7 lakhs new cases and 3 lakhs deaths occur annually due to cancer. Nearly 15 lakh patients require facilities for diagnosis, treatment and follow up at a given time. To combat this, the emphasis in the 10th Plan is on generation of comprehensive data, primary and secondary prevention of cancers and strengthening of existing treatment facilities alongwith palliative care for the terminal stage cancers.

I am thankful to all the authors for contributing the articles with their valuable experience and to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for the initiative and support in the publication of this book. I wish the book would be able to fill the gap existing in the knowledge about cancer control in India.


Dr. S.P. Agarwal



प्रधान मंत्री
PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE

I am happy to know 7th November is being observed as the National Cancer Awareness Day.

Around 2-2.5 million Indians suffer from cancer today and some 0.8 million new cases arise every year. Most of us know that cancer can be controlled if diagnosed early. It should be our endeavour to ensure that patients suspected to have cancer should be examined early at health care centers close to them. We must also underline the importance of preventive measures including changing lifestyles and addressing risk factors like tobacco.

I hope the. "National Cancer Awareness Day" activities would help in enhancing people's knowledge of cancer.

(A.B. Vajpayee)

New Delhi
October 16, 2002



शत्रुघ्न सिन्हा
Shatrughan Sinha

मंत्री
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण
भारत सरकार
नई दिल्ली - 110 011
MINISTER
OF
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI - 110 011

MESSAGE

Cancer has become a major public health problem due to changing life styles. It has been estimated that there are approximately 2.5 million cases of cancer in India at any given point of time and about 0.8 million new cases come up every year. A large number of cases can be prevented with suitable health education and early case detection. Cancer can be cured if diagnosed in the initial stage. I am happy to learn that November 7, which is the birth anniversary of Madam Curie, the eminent scientist, is being observed as "National Cancer awareness Day", I am sure such initiatives will focus on preventive aspects and make people aware of early detection of cancer and will provide emotional and psychological support to cancer patients.

I wish the event all success.

(Shatrughan Sinha)

New Delhi
October 8, 2002



राष्ट्रपति
भारत गणतंत्र
PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF INDIA

MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is observing the National Cancer Awareness Day on November 7, 2002 to coincide with the birth anniversary of the eminent scientist Madam Curie.

There is a need in our country to promote a multi-pronged strategy to reduce cancer-related mortality. This should include promotion of healthy lifestyle, early screening and effective curative therapy. Cancer Awareness Day, I hope, will also mobilize public opinion for serving those who already suffer from this disease.

I send my best wishes for the success of the National Cancer Awareness Day.

(A.P.J. Abdul Kalam)

New Delhi
October 31, 2002

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Disclaimer : The opinion and views expressed by authors are their own and doesn't necessarily mean that same is the policy of Govt. of India.

Cover Photo : Cannulation of umbilical cord for collection of hematopoietic stem cells; courtesy Dr. Purvish M. Parikh