

# Research Priorities of Public Health Importance for Prevention & Control of Cancers in Sri Lanka

Year 2023/2024

## Thematic areas

- [Primary Prevention & Early Detection of Cancer](#)
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## **Primary Prevention & Early Detection of Cancer**

- 1 Effectiveness of Healthy Lifestyle Centre (HLC) intervention for primary prevention of cancers
- 2 Qualitative research on sociocultural determinants of the occurrence of cancers and related myths
- 3 Awareness on cancer risk factors among high-risk groups
- 4 Effectiveness of regulations related to risk factor control in prevention & control of cancers. (Tobacco smoking, Smokeless tobacco, areca nut, and commercially prepared tobacco and areca nut products)
- 5 Use of safety measures for prevention of occupation-related cancers
- 6 Acceptance of Cancer Early Detection Centre initiative as a method of early detection of cancers
- 7 Study on contribution of private sector for early detection of cancers

## **Breast Cancer**

- 1 Needs assessment, patient perspectives and effectiveness of breast clinics
- 2 Effectiveness & outcome of clinical breast examination at Well Women Clinic & Healthy Lifestyle Centres
- 3 Utilization pattern of mammography services at government and private sector hospitals
- 4 Assessment of preparedness to conduct breast clinics in a sustainable manner in secondary & tertiary care hospitals

## **Cervical Cancer**

- 1 Readiness to achieve targets of the global initiative on elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem
- 2 Feasibility of introducing follow-up pre-cancer registry for cervical cancer patients
- 3 Factors for not attending cervical cancer screening at the age of 35 years and 45 years
- 4 Prevalence of cervical precancer and cancer among vulnerable groups – STD Clinic attendees, Commercial Sex workers .... etc
- 5 Utilization of colposcopy services for cervical precancer care

## **Oral cancer**

- 1 Gaps in early detection programme of OPMD/oral cancers
- 2 Contribution of HPV infections for development of oro pharyngeal cancers
- 3 Costing studies of early detection of oral cancer and oral cancer care
- 4 Quality of life of oral cancer survivors
- 5 Care pathways and delays of oral cancer care
- 6 Effectiveness of options available for management of OPMD
- 7 Barriers and enabling factors for surveillance of OPMD/Oral cancer in oral healthcare settings
- 8 Malignant transformation rate among patients with OPMD in Sri Lanka
- 9 Effectiveness of adjunct methods in detection of OPMD in Sri Lanka
- 10 Survival rates of Oral cancers in Sri Lanka
- 11 Effectiveness of public health strategies and approaches to prevent oral cancer
- 12 Challenges faced to control of oral cancer in primary health care settings

## **Paediatric cancers**

- 1 Survival rates on WHO GICC Index Cancers – Acute Lymphocytic Leukaemia, Burkitt Lymphoma, Retinoblastoma, Wilm’s Tumour, Low Grade Glioma
- 2 Long-term survivorship issues of childhood cancer survivors
- 3 Study of care pathways and delays of childhood cancer care
- 4 Adverse effects following childhood cancer care
- 5 Audit on childhood cancer deaths in Sri Lanka
- 6 Costing studies on childhood cancer care (Out of pocket expenditure & Institutional cost)
- 7 Awareness & educational needs of primary care medical officers on early identification of childhood cancers
- 8 Effects of current economic crisis for management of childhood cancers

## **Other Common Cancers**

- 1 Gaps on awareness on symptoms and signs of common cancers among primary health care team
- 2 Care pathways of Colo rectal cancers and delays of early diagnosis of colon cancers
- 3 Survival rates of common cancers – Colo rectal cancers, thyroid cancers, oesophageal cancers

## **Diagnosis & Treatment of Cancers**

- 1 Utilization pattern of MRI, CT for diagnosis of cancers
- 2 Knowledge and practices of radiation protection in diagnostic imaging
- 3 Health seeking behaviour of patients with different cancers including breast, cervix, and oral cancer..... etc
- 4 Adverse effects of radiotherapy among patients receiving care from Cobolt & Linac machines
- 5 Health seeking behaviour of patients with different cancers – Community based study
- 6 Utilization of brachytherapy in Cancer Treatment Centers
- 7 Retrospective assessment of treatment cost of selected cancers
- 8 Radiation safety monitoring at health care settings
- 9 Study on management of clinical (chemotherapy and radiotherapy) waste in CTCs
- 10 Gap analysis of cancer care in Centers of Excellence and CTCs

## **Survivorship & Palliative Care of Cancers**

- 1 Assessment of palliative care consult services at secondary and tertiary care
- 2 An assessment of existing hospice care services for palliative care - available resources, barriers and opportunities
- 3 Experiences of provision of palliative care services at primary care level
- 4 Assessment of palliative care service provision of Public Health Nursing Officers.
- 5 Educational needs on palliative care among primary care medical officers
- 6 Assessment of care giver needs of primary care givers of palliative care patients at home setting
- 7 Barriers and strengths of maintain continuous supply of Morphine for cancer pain management