Global Task Force on Expanded Access to Cancer Care and Control in Developing Countries

10 Facts about Cervical Cancer

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1) Cervical cancer is the second most common cause of death from malignant tumours in women worldwide.1

2) Yet, cervical cancer is becoming increasing a disease of the poor – both in terms of incidence and death.1,2

3) For women aged 30-59, cervical cancer is one of least common causes of death: the 13th in high-income, the 15th in middle-income and the 13th in low-income countries.3

4) In several developing countries, and largely as a result of screening, death rates have dropped significantly over the past years. In Mexico, for example, cervical cancer mortality dropped from 16/100,000 in 1990 to 8/100,000 in 2008.4

5) In 2008, 527,000 new cases were registered.2

6) The total number of deaths due cervical cancer deaths per year is estimated at 274,000. This corresponds, for women aged 15 and over to a rate of 12 per 100,000 ranging from 19/100,000 in South Asia to 4/100,000 en North America.2

7) The vast majority –90% of new cases (477,000)– are diagnosed in women living in low and middle-income countries (LMICs).2 LMIC’s account for an even higher proportion of deaths from cervical cancer – 93%.2

8) The majority – approximately 58% of all new cervical cancer cases are diagnosed in women under 55 and this is particularly true in LMICs.2

9) Due to both lack of access to screening –that can detect pre-cancers– and lack of access to treatment in LMICs, a higher percentage of women with the disease die from it. In North America mortality and incidence rate is 0.39; in Latin America and the Caribbean is about 0.53.2,5

10) The survival gap is even higher, 78%, comparing the group of 25 poorest countries (mortality rate of 0.68) in the world with Canada (mortality rate of 0.38), a country with one of the lowest fatality rates in the group of higher-income countries.2

References:


