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Over 7.36 lakh people to succumb to cancer in 2016, numbers to shoot up to 8.8 lakh by 2020, says study

The ICMR also conducted a country-wide study from 2012-14 from various Population Based Cancer Registries (PBCR) and Hospital Based Registries.

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With an estimated 1.5 lakh fresh cases in 2016, breast cancer was most prevalent in the country followed by lung cancer and the cancer of the cervix.

This is the right time to kick the butt as the latest report compiled from cancer registries across India by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has revealed that tobacco accounts for around a third (30 per cent) of all cancers in males and females in India.

"There was a significant increase in males in the population-based cancer registries at Bangalore, Chennai and Delhi and in females at Bangalore, Barshi and Bhopal registries," said Dr A Nandkumar, Head of National Cancer Registry.

The report said that among males, cancer of the mouth was most prevalent in western states of the country.

Similarly, lung cancer, for which smoking is one of the triggers, is most common in 10 out of 27 cancer registries. "There is a rise in cases of lung cancer among females because more and more women are taking up smoking.

And, most of the patients generally present themselves to the hospital for diagnosis and treatment when the disease has spread regionally or is in an advanced stage. The overall proportion of patients visiting early in localised stage of the cancer is only 12.5 per cent," said Dr Nandkumar.

Rising numbers

"Many cases go unreported in the country because of lack of awareness and diagnosis. We have asked the government to declare cancer as a notifiable disease like HIV and tuberculosis because this will help in better monitoring of the patients.

Among females, breast cancer is topping the chart followed by cancer of cervix," he added. ICMR has also made projections of cancer burden in the country in future. The apex research body said in 2016, the total number of new cancer cases is expected to be around 14.5 lakh and the figure is likely to reach nearly 17.3 lakh new cases in 2020. Over 7.36 lakh people are expected to succumb to the disease in 2016 while the figure is estimated to shoot up to 8.8 lakh by 2020.

Cancer of the breast, with estimated 1.5 lakh (over 10 per cent of all cancers) new cases during 2016, is the number one cancer overall. Cancer of the lung is the next with estimated 1.14 lakh (83,000 in males and 31,000 in females) new cases during 2016 and 1.4 lakh cases in 2020. Cancer of the cervix is the third most common cancer with estimated 1 lakh new cases in 2016 and about 1.04 lakh during 2020.

The ICMR also conducted a country-wide study from 2012-14 from various Population Based Cancer Registeries (PBCR) and Hospital Based Registeries. It also stated there was a significant increase in cancers of rectum and colon in males in the PBCRs at Bangalore, Chennai, and Delhi and in females in Barshi and Bhopal. Delhi also tops the chart for cancer among children.