

Doctors Cites Studies To Show Tobacco-Cancer Links

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Doctors of Dr B Barooah Cancer Institute of Guwahati today cited several factual evidences to prove strong links between tobacco consumption and occurrence of cancer.

It raised serious objections to the controversy created by few public representatives of the country by stating that there is no scientific evidence in India to prove that tobacco consumption is associated with cancer.

Protesting such statements, Dr B Barooah Cancer Institute has appealed to all the policy makers of the country to take immediate steps to go ahead with the earlier decisions of the central government to include 85 per cent of the pictorial warning on tobacco packages from April 1 this year.

In a press statement issued here today, the Institute hoped that the pictorial warning initiative will go a long way in reducing the burden of tobacco consumption from the point of public health perspective.

The Institute authorities said according to International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) 2004, there is sufficient evidence to show that cancer of lips, tongue, mouth, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, lungs, stomach, colo-rectal cancers, kidneys, urinary bladder, uterine cervix in females, and myeloid leukemia in adults are tobacco related cancers.

Dr A C Katak, Director of the Cancer Institute, informed that at present there are 29 Population Based Cancer Registries (PBCR) in the country under the National Network of Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

As per 3-year consolidated report of 25 PBCRs for the period 2009-2011, East Khasi Hill District of Meghalaya had the highest relative proportion of cancers associated with the use of tobacco for males and females at 69.3 per cent and 43.0 per cent respectively when compared to all sites of cancer.

The lowest proportion of tobacco related cancer was among females in Thiruvananthapuram with 10.3 per cent of cancers being associated with the use of tobacco.

This is largely due to high literacy rate and low prevalence of tobacco consumption in the State of Kerala.

Oesophageal cancer was the leading site in 7 registries, its contribution ranging from 19.9% in Cachar district of Assam to 45.1 per cent in Meghalaya.

The lung cancer was the leading site in 8 registries, its contribution ranging from 24.7 per cent in Delhi to 48.9 per cent in Manipur state.

In females, mouth cancer, oesophageal cancer and lung cancer are the leading sites among tobacco related cancers.

Mouth cancer and oesophageal cancer contributed to 66.6 per cent of tobacco related cancer (TRC) in Nagaland, lung cancer contributed to 67.9 per cent and 72.8 per cent of TRCs in Manipur State and Mizoram State respectively and in Meghalaya, 54.7 per cent of tobacco related cancers belong to oesophageal cancer.

As per Population Based Cancer Registry of Urban Kamrup district of Assam, cancer of the tongue in females is highest in the country, whereas it is second highest in case of males.

Again, cancer of mouth and hypo-pharynx in female is highest in the country. About 5000 tobacco related cancer patients are reported to Dr B Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati every year.

Dr Kataki said there are numerous studies in the country to prove association of tobacco consumption and cancer.

Tobacco consumption is also risk factor for cardio-vascular disease, stroke, chronic respiratory and peripheral vascular diseases and also has adverse effect on pregnancy and reproductive outcome.

Dr Ashok Kr Das, Head of the Department of Head and Neck Oncology, BBCL, said in significant number of cancer of the gum it is seen that it occurs at the site where chewable tobacco is used. UNI SG BM BM SY 1630

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