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Current Status of Cancer in Taiwan

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Abstract

Cancer has replaced cerebral vascular disease and has become the leading cause of death in Taiwan since 1982. In 1992, cervical cancer was ranked the leading cancer in incidence in Taiwan and hepatoma was the leading cancer resulting in mortality, Lung cancer, gastric cancer, cervical cancer, colorectal cancer and breast cancer ranked the second to sixth leading cancers, individually. Among males, the five leading cancers in incidence were hepatoma, lung cancer, colorectal cancer, gastric cancer and oral cancer. As for females, the five leading cancers in incidence were cervical cancer, breast cancer, breast cancer colorectal cancer, lung cancer and hepatoma.

Hepatoma and lung cancer have been the cancers that affect many men and women in Taiwan. Although lung cancer remains life-threatening, the U.S.A. still push to export and market the cigarette, which is banished in their country (sic), to Taiwan. For prevention and early detection of hepatoma, our government has put a great deal of effort into vaccination and screening. The health bureau also advocates pap smears for every adult woman in Taiwan in order to screen for cervical cancer. With continuing westernization and urbanization, the incidence of breast cancer in Taiwan has increased nearly Vold in the last 10 years. Colorectal cancer has also greatly increased. Oral cancer is the fifth leading cancer in incidence and the sixth in mortality among males. The high incidence and mortality of oral cancer could be attributed to irritation by carcinogens in betel nuts. The current status, including epidemiologic study, clinical data and basic research into hepatoma, lung cancer, cervical cancer, breast cancer and oral cancer will be presented.