

South East Asia, Differing Socio-Economic Factors, Differing Access to Radiotherapy: The Philippines, a Microcosm

Miriam Joy C. Calaguas, Johannes Gubat



PII: S1053-4296(16)30069-8
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.semradonc.2016.11.010>
Reference: YSRAO50581

To appear in: *Seminars in Radiation Oncology*

Cite this article as: Miriam Joy C. Calaguas and Johannes Gubat, South East Asia, Differing Socio-Economic Factors, Differing Access to Radiotherapy: The Philippines, a Microcosm, *Seminars in Radiation Oncology*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.semradonc.2016.11.010>

This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting galley proof before it is published in its final citable form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

South East Asia, Differing Socio-Economic Factors, Differing Access to Radiotherapy: The Philippines, a Microcosm

by

Miriam Joy C. Calaguas, MD, FPCR, FPROS
 Past President, South East Asian Radiation Oncology Group (SEAROG)
 Department of Radiation Oncology
 St. Luke's Medical Center, Philippines
 miriamcalaguas@yahoo.com
 conflict of interest: none

and

Johannes Gubat, RPh, MD
 Department of Radiation Oncology
 St. Luke's Medical Center, Philippines
 johansgubat@gmail.com
 conflict of interest: none

Abstract

The accessibility of radiotherapy in Southeast Asia, a region characterized by diversity in both economy and culture, differ widely among its member countries. In the majority of countries, access is not universal and is generally limited by radiotherapy resources and the health-seeking behavior of patients. This in turn relates to the current health policy in place, the practice of radiation oncology, and cultural factors such as religion and family dynamics. Although it is clear that radiotherapy access parallel economic development, it is also affected by different social factors that work to facilitate or impede its improvement. These factors are herein described in relation to the Philippine situation where there is wide economic disparity, multiple subcultures and logistical impediments to improving radiotherapy access, reminiscent of the Southeast Asian region. In the face of increasing cancer burden, it becomes increasingly important to improve services and develop new and efficient approaches taking different cultural factors into consideration. Through regional and international cooperation, solutions to the common and complex problem of inequity in radiotherapy access may be developed.

Introduction

Lack of accessibility and timely treatment intervention increases the mortality and incidence ratio of cancer in developing countries. The cancer burden takes on a different perspective and is larger in developed countries¹. While socio-economic development can bring efficient systems and advanced infrastructure to improve access to radiotherapy and cancer care, it also results in lifestyle changes such as smoking, unhealthy diet, sedentary living lacking of exercise which contributes to increasing cancer incidence.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/5579463>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/5579463>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)