

**WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION**

**Regional Office  
for the Eastern Mediterranean**



**ORGANISATION MONDIALE  
DE LA SANTÉ**

**Bureau régional  
pour la Méditerranée orientale**

**FOURTH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL  
ADVISORY PANEL ON CANCER**

**EM/FRTH.MTG.REG.ADV.PNL.CAN./8**

**Karachi, 14 - 15 March 1979**

**ENGLISH**

**B - REVIEW OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN  
CANCER ACTIVITIES IN THE SUDAN**

by

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Cancer continued to be gaining an important role as a cause of morbidity and mortality in the Sudan. It is fortunate that WHO/EMRO has now started to organize projects for cancer control in the Region. In 1978 the Sudan was selected for the start of a project with the aim of strengthening the cancer programme at country level.

Accordingly two teams, a WHO team and a counterpart national team, were formed for this aim. The WHO team consisted of:

- Public Health Administrator
- Cancer Specialist from WHO/Geneva
- Consultant from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (Lyons)
- Regional Adviser on Radiation Health and Cancer from EMRO.

The national team consisted of medical specialists in the country including:

- Oncologists
- Pathologists
- General Surgeons
- Chest Surgeons
- Haematologists
- Physicians
- Gynaecologists
- Dental Surgeons
- Medical Statistician

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The two teams met together in Khartoum from 22 - 30 March 1978 with the following terms of reference:

1. To study the epidemiological patterns of cancer and to identify the most prevalent forms of cancer in the Sudan.
2. To analyze and clarify the present situation of common forms of cancer in the country.
3. To explore and discuss the feasibility of preparing a manual for use by cancer control personnel who are not cancer specialists.

The two teams had several joint meetings and appropriate visits were arranged for the WHO team to visit the central laboratory, the cancer registry, statistics department and other relevant places.

The result of these efforts is the comprehensive report presented to WHO and the Sudan Government.

#### C - SUGGESTIONS FOR COOPERATION IN IMPROVING CANCER INFRASTRUCTURE AND CANCER ACTIVITIES

- (a) To achieve this aim responsible personnel in each country should be well-acquainted with what is going on and what is lacking in other countries. This could be achieved by closer personnel contacts, communication, meetings, symposia.
- (b) Interregional training courses should be encouraged at all levels.
- (c) Training of personnel especially at technical level may be feasible in different centres from countries which lack centres for such activities.

#### D - HOW TO DEVELOP A COMMUNITY APPROACH FOR A CANCER PROGRAMME IN THE SUDAN

Community approach for cancer programmes can be developed by strengthening the cancer education programme as a whole. This should be aimed at educating:

- (a) Medical and Paramedical staff by orientation programmes to be arranged by newsletters, leaflets, audio-visual means, lectures, seminars, etc. and by visiting specialists to train local counterparts. This may well also be achieved by fellowships, collaboration with advanced centres, and under- and post-graduate training for medical students.
- (b) Education of the Public: This includes all aspects of education of the public in relation to early detection, prevention, and epidemiology of cancer.

Voluntary Societies play a very important role in this field. All news media such as the press, radio, T.V. should be fully utilized.