



Barriers to early cancer treatment In Southeast Asia

A Patient's Point of View

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COMMON KNOWLEDGE

Common Sense :

To stop cancer as early as possible.

- Better chance for a successful treatment*
- Treatment is more affordable*

Not Common:

Access to early diagnosis and early treatment



SOUTHEAST ASIAN SITUATION

- Some of the poor have some free access to surgery, conventional chemotherapy, radiation
- In general, no free cancer screening
- Limited access for patients with advanced stage cancers
- No equitable access to clinical trials



SOUTHEAST ASIAN SITUATION

Most state health insurance don't purchase, reimburse or provide

- innovative drugs
- drugs for side effects & palliative care
- personalized medicine (genomics and genetic testing)



BARRIERS TO EARLY DIAGNOSIS



Biggest Barriers

- The myth that cancer is a death sentence
- Cancer is expensive

Reality

Few survivorship models among the poor

Myth

Alternative medicine is cheaper, friendlier on the pocket and the body

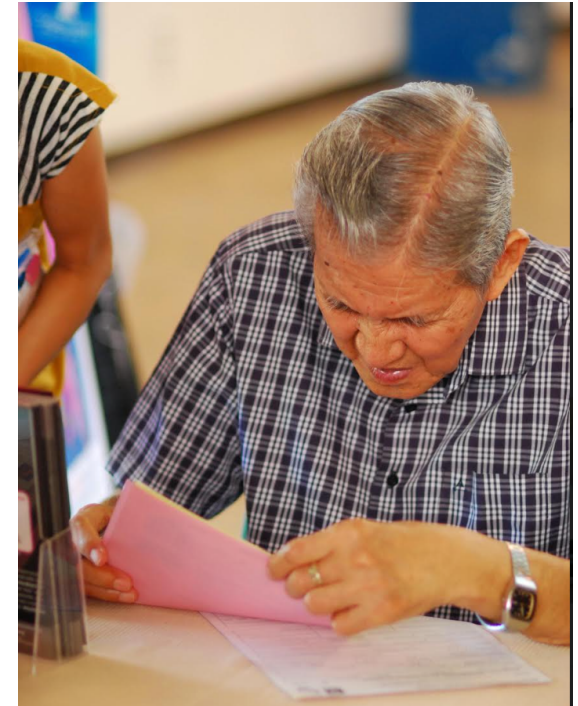
OTHER BARRIERS

- administrative barriers
- help is not under one roof, patients hop from one facility to another
- this means more expenses: transportation, food
- for the daily wage earner: possible loss of income if the patient or caregiver has to miss work



OTHER BARRIERS

- Dealing with side effects is no joke
- The poor can't afford medicines for side effects
- So why bother paying to suffer?



ACTION STUDY 2015

- A cancer diagnosis in Southeast Asia is disastrous.
- The poor and those with advanced stage cancers are common and vulnerable to adverse economic outcomes and poor survival.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Bust the Bias

- Patients are not just people with illness
- Patients are partners.
- Invest in patient education

A seat at the Table

- Every health related governing body that deals with cancer
- Health Technology Councils
- Clinical Trial Designs



RECOMMENDATIONS

Patient navigation

- Systems are fragmented
- Navigators can overcome barriers through screening, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship care, hospice care and palliative care
- Navigation improves compliance and patient outcomes



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Countries need to provide adequate financial protection from the cost of illness
- Create a directory or public listing of medical access programs
- State insurance should purchase and reimburse innovative meds, drugs that manage side effects of treatment.
- Invest in personalized medicine
- Promote equitable access to clinical trials





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