
ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CANCER ON SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

Cancer has become the Cinderella priority of our health system and of our society, when, in fact, cancer is not just a health emergency. It is a societal emergency. We must train and educate our communities, our families, our workplaces to provide their contribution to the individual collective struggle of people against cancer

Cancer care costs are a financial burden to patients, their families, and society as a whole. In 2006 medical expenses from cancer care in the United States were an estimated \$104.1 billion. As the population ages, costs are expected to continue to increase as cancer prevalence rises. In addition, the development of expensive, targeted treatment strategies that are becoming the standard of care will most likely increase cancer costs. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) between 2004 and 2030, global cancer deaths will increase from 7.4 million to 11.8 million and cancer will be the leading cause of death this year followed by heart disease and stroke

According to the voluntary social workers survey, 66% of patients with major financial challenges suffer depression or anxiety, 29% delay filling prescriptions due to financial pressures, and 22% skip doses of their medications. The impact of cancer and cancer treatment on health care costs has increasingly gained the attention of providers and payers as well as patients and their families.

Cancer care costs are greatest during the period of initial treatment immediately following diagnosis and during the last few months before death.

Keywords: Cancer, Economic impact, society patients, Cost

Introduction:

Cancer has become the Cinderella priority of our health system and of our society, when, in fact, cancer is not just a health emergency. It is a societal emergency. We must train and educate our communities, our families, our workplaces to provide their contribution to the individual collective struggle of people against cancer. Cancer is an extremely costly disease not only in terms of the intensive medical treatments involved, but also the loss of life and its impact on society as a whole. Many cancers can be avoided or the mortality rate can be significantly reduced with the use of preventative screening and early treatment. Preventative services can be expensive in the short term, but they can have significant benefits in the long term if instigated efficiently and effectively

Of the 10 million new cancer cases seen each year worldwide, 4.7 million are in the more developed countries and nearly 5.5 million are in the less developed countries. Although the disease has often been regarded principally as a problem of the developed world, more than half of all cancers occur in the developing countries.

What is Cancer

Cancer is when abnormal cells divide in an uncontrolled way. Some cancers may eventually spread into other tissues. Cancer is the name given to a collection of related diseases. In all types of cancer, some of the body's cells begin to divide without stopping and spread into surrounding tissues. Cancer can start almost anywhere in the human body, which is made up of trillions of cells. Normally, human cells grow and divide to form new cells as the body needs them. When cells grow old or become damaged, they die, and new cells take their place.

Economic impact of cancer on patients and society

Cancer care costs are a financial burden to patients, their families, and society as a whole. In 2006 medical expenses from cancer care in the United States were an estimated \$104.1 billion. As the population ages, costs are expected to continue to increase as cancer prevalence rises. In addition, the development of expensive, targeted treatment strategies that are becoming the standard of care will most likely increase cancer costs. According to the

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WHO analyzed it in order to come up with a measure describing the overall burden of disease in terms of a disability-adjusted life year (DALY). To determine economic burden estimated the economic value of a year of healthy life. In 2008, the cost of premature death and disability but not direct medical costs from cancer was \$895 billion worldwide compared with \$753 billion for heart disease Worldwide, cancer results in greatest cost from premature death and disability of all causes of death Lost productivity and lost years of life are responsible for cancer's largest drain on economy Lung, colorectal and breast cancer are associated with greatest cost worldwide due to death and disability

The Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW) shows that more than one half of cancer patients indicate cancer costs negatively impact their focus on recovery. Those who work with these patients know the stressors firsthand and understand the negative impact they can have on family, caregivers, and most importantly the patients.

According to the survey, 66% of patients with major financial challenges suffer depression or anxiety, 29% delay filling prescriptions due to financial pressures, and 22% skip doses of their medications. Sixty-three percent of oncology social workers surveyed said financial issues reduce patients' compliance with their cancer treatment even though that treatment is key to their recovery. Additionally, 40% of patients reported depleting their savings, almost 30% reported dealing with bill collectors, and 54% of those handling a major/catastrophic financial burden said it had become more difficult in the past year to afford treatment. The financial costs of cancer are high for both the person with cancer and for society as a whole.

The Agency for Healthcare research and Quality (AHRQ) estimates that the direct medical costs (total of all health care costs) for cancer in the US in 2011 were **\$88.7 billion**.

- 50% of this cost is for hospital outpatient or doctor office visits
- 35% of this cost is for inpatient hospital stays
- 11% of this cost is for prescription drugs

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the numbers of new cancer cases is expected to rise by about 70% over the next 20 years.

Conclusion

For families with cancer, financial issues emerged as a significant concern at a time when these families were already consumed with other challenges. This economic burden can have long-term effects on the financial security, quality of life, and future well-being of the entire family, including the siblings of the affected child, but in particular the mother. Financial assistance programs for families of seriously ill children need to be revisited and expanded.

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