POPULATION BASED CANCER REGISTRY, MEGHALAYA Civil Hospital, Shillong

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Meghalaya is one of the hill stations in the north-eastern part of India. The word "Meghalaya" comes from the Sanskrit word which means the Abode of Clouds. The state shares its border on the north and east with Assam and south and west with Bangladesh. As per 2011, the state has a population of 29,66,889 and is the 23rd most populous in the country. Meghalaya is spread over an area of 22,429 square kilometres and lies between 20.1° N and 26.5° N latitude and 85.49° E and 92.52° E longitude. Shillong the capital is also known as the Scotland of the East and the Shillong Metropolitan area has a population of 354,325. The Meghalaya tribes are mainly classified into three groups - Garos, Khasis and Pnars or Jaintias. The most noteworthy feature of tribes of Meghalaya is their parental lineage. The tribes of Meghalaya follow matrilineal lineage.

With all the tremendous help and support received from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi and its unit National Cancer Registry Programme (NCDIR) Bangalore, Population Based Cancer Registry has just completed its five years term on 1st September 2014, covering the four districts of Meghalaya i.e. East Khasi Hills District, West Khasi Hills District, Jaintia Hills District and Ri-Bhoi District with an estimated population of 18,64,281 out of which 14,000,78 is predominantly rural population and the remaining 4,63,269 is urban population (*As per 2011 census*). The registry is covering the Khasi – Jaintia Hills districts, with a registry area of approximately 14,262 sq kms. (*Excluding Garo Hills*). Now, the Registry is covering the six districts of the state, following the creation of two new districts within the registry area. The Registry was initially started as Cancer Atlas Civil Hospital Shillong from 2005.

Since cancer is not a notifiable disease, the process for data collection is an active one with the participation from different sources of registration. The PBCR registers all malignant neoplasm, with a morphology behaviour code of "3" and "6" as defined by the International Classification of Disease—Oncology (ICD–O). Data abstraction of incidence and mortality is routinely performed by the Social Investigator. The Registry is using PBCRDM 2.1 software provided by NCRP. The availability of the free of cost of Pathology and radiotherapy software modules of NCDIR-ICMR, has been marketed and advertised among the participating sources.

According to the data recorded by the registry, males have higher incident rates than females. This suggests that the magnitude of cancers among males is higher than that of the females. Oesophagus is the leading sites in both males and females. Necessary follow up has been done through home visits,

telephonic conversation, through online electoral roll list etc. Mortality statistics has an impressive history as a useful tool for undertaking epidemiological studies of cancer. The social investigators routinely visit the municipal board, DMHO offices for collecting mortality data and these are screened for cancer related deaths. Mortality record collection is also done from all the hospitals/institutions which fall under the registry area. Other sources of mortality information include media i.e. local newspapers, local cable TV service provider etc. as these are considered valuable source of information. All cause mortality has not been collected by the Registry due to non-digitised registration and improper death registration.

A massive appreciation goes to the different Government and private institutions for their co-operation in providing data from time to time which helps in proper functioning of the registry. The registry is also thankful to all the patients and their family members for their co-operation.

Supporting Staff

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Main Sources of Registration of Incident Cases of Cancer: 2012-2014 Meghalaya

Wegnarya		
Name of the Institution	Number	%
Woodland Hospital Shillong	1122	26.4
NEIGRIHMS Shillong	733	17.2
North Eastern Diagnostic Centre (NEDC) Shillong	390	9.2
Nazareth Hospital Shillong	368	8.7
Bethany Hospital Shillong	281	6.6
Civil Hospital Shillong	265	6.2
KJP Hospital Shillong	237	5.6
Melari Diagnostic Laboratory Shillong	123	2.9
Cancer Atlas	54	1.3
BBCI Guwahati	44	1.0
HBCR	41	1.0
Others	590	13.9
Total	4248	100.0

^{1.} Institutions listed have registered at least one percent of all cases in the registry for Selected Year.

^{2.} The numbers and proportion listed are the minimum number of cases. Institutions could have registered/reported more cases, since duplicate registrations and non-resident/registry cases are not included.