CHALLENGES OF DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF COLORECTAL CANCER IN EGYPT

Cancer remains one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide. It is predicted that by 2020, the number of new cases of cancer in the world will increase to more than 15 million, with deaths increasing to 12 million. Much of the burden of cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality will occur in the developing world. Epidemiological data, research, treatment, and cancer control and prevention combine to result in significantly poorer survival rates in developing countries for a range of specific malignancies. Factors which increase cancer burden in developing countries include :

Awareness and early detection
Education
training program

 Decreasing colorectal cancer mortality rates, most likely due to colorectal cancer screening and/or improved treatment, have been observed in a large number of developed countries; however, increases in mortality rates are still occurring in countries that may have more limited resources, compared with longstanding, economically developed countries.

- Colorectal cancer screening has been proven to greatly reduce mortality and in some instances may prevent the onset of disease through the removal of precancerous polyps.
- The variety of existing screening tests makes colorectal cancer screening accessible for most countries, and therefore, greater international consideration of targeted screening programs and/or screening recommendations could help to alleviate the burden of colorectal cancer worldwide.

Colorectal cancer is a common malignancy in Egypt and shows a trend towards a relative young age at diagnosis and the majority of patients present late with advanced stage.

So,

There is a need for screening of high-risk populations, early diagnosis and effective costeffective treatment and follow-up to improve outcome of these patients

SCREENING

Away from cost effectiveness, the screening programs for colorectal cancer in EGYPT have to face the challenge of organisation of health care especially the multiplicity of sectors that organise the health care in Egypt.

SCREENING

Also the weak response of population to the screening programs (take up) result in late diagnosis of most of cases ,the awareness of the population as regard early detection is very important.

SCREENING

This awareness has to extend to include families with hereditary history who must involved in time tabled screening programs especially colonoscopic examination.

DIAGNOSIS

- As regard the tools for diagnosis either laboratory or imaging , these are available in most of our institutes , military hospitals and in private centres.
- The problem is the cost effectiveness and the importance to train young doctors to ask for proper investigations only.

TREATMENT

- Training programs for young surgeons still lacking for organisation
- Laparoscopic surgery is available in academic centres and draining ones.
- Enhanced recovery programs are improving with time.
- Chemotherapeutic agents are available despite their high prices and this represent a burden for insurance hospitals.
- Still waiting lists for radio therapy in need of more Linear accelerators and comp. Planned systems

CONCLUSION

Organization, Training and costing represent the challenge for proper diagnosis and treatment of colorectal cancer in Egypt.

