Surveillance System

Direction

2.1   The availability of comprehensive cancer data is essential to the planning of cancer services across the territory and to assess and monitor the impact of local cancer control programmes at population level.

2.2   The Hong Kong Cancer Registry ("HKCaR"), as the Government-recognised agency tasked to provide wide-spectrum surveillance data, will expand its role in the surveillance of cancers and the tracking of trends in local cancer burden by improving the use, efficiency and scope of cancer data and reporting system.

Strategies

A. Improving the quality of cancer data

2.3   The HKCaR seeks to enhance the data collection of more prevalent cancers and the comprehensiveness of data including staging information and survival rates according to stage and/or by histology. The HKCaR will also strengthen the collection and compilation of specific clinicopathological data that affects the prognosis of different types of cancers for cancer surveillance. In the budget year 2019-20, $3 million has been earmarked to enhance the deliverables of the HKCaR to support its surveillance function.

2.4   The HKCaR will work closely with cancer experts to enable complete and accurate staging information for the ten prevalent cancers, including cancers of the colorectum, breast, cervix, corpus uteri, ovary, prostate, nasopharynx, thyroid, lung and liver. The HKCaR is building partnership with private healthcare providers to sustain a complete and high coverage of cancer data in Hong Kong. To this end, agreements have been reached between a number of private hospitals and the HKCaR to support and contribute data to an official territory-wide surveillance system.

2.5　　In the long run, the Government may consider a review of the governance of the HKCaR and scope of cancer information to be compiled for the whole territory to facilitate research, service planning and development.

B. Allowing greater access to cancer surveillance data

2.6　　Under this strategy, the cancer information system of HKCaR will transform complete, timely and high-quality data of different levels into valuable information that is easily accessible. Such information will be disseminated to policy makers, researchers and healthcare providers to support public health, healthcare planning and research. It will be made available to the general public to better understand the status and burden of cancer in Hong Kong.

Expected Outcome by 2025

2.7　　The HKCaR seeks to achieve the following –

(a) shorten the current time lag in the reporting of annual cancer statistics from 22/23 months to 20 months;

(b) capture, compile and report high-quality stage data for the ten prevalent cancers;

(c) compile and report stage-specific survival rates of the ten prevalent cancers; and

(d) expand access to the data through a dedicated website which would include fact sheets, bulletins and interactive access to databases used for local cancer surveillance.

The website of the HKCaR (http://www3.ha.org.hk/cancereg/) provides statistics such as the ten most common cancers in Hong Kong and fact sheets on various cancers. Its interactive systems provide access to local cancer incidence and mortality statistics according to self-selected parameters.