

Popular Article

Empowering Women: India's Fight against Cervical Cancer

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Introduction

Cancer is an abnormal, proliferation of cells without control, serves no useful function, and has no orderly arrangement. The fundamental to the origin of all cancers is loss of responsiveness, that is, insensitivity to normal growth controls. Tumours are applied to neoplastic masses that may cause swelling on the body surface. Malignant tumours are commonly called cancers. Cancer is derived from the Latin word and means a crab because cancers adhere to any part that they seize very firmly like a crab.

Cancer has become one of the main causes of death worldwide. Breast cancer, often known as a mammary tumour, is the leading cause of death in human females. Cervical cancer is next to the breast cancer-related mortality in human females. Cervical cancer remains a significant health concern globally, affecting women of all ages and backgrounds. In India, the burden of cervical cancer is particularly high, with thousands of lives lost each year. However, amidst this challenge, rays of hope shine through government initiatives aimed at prevention,

early detection, and treatment. Let's delve into the landscape of cervical cancer in India and explore the impactful initiatives undertaken by the Indian government to combat this disease.

Understanding cervical cancer

Cervical cancer develops in the cervix, the lower part of the uterus. It is primarily caused by persistent infection with high-risk strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV). HPV is a common sexually transmitted infection, and while many women can clear the virus naturally, persistent infection can lead to cervical cancer over time.

Importance of early detection

One of the critical factors in the fight against cervical cancer is early detection. Regular screening tests, such as Pap smear and HPV testing, can detect precancerous changes in the cervix, allowing for timely intervention and treatment. Unfortunately, in many parts of India, access to these screening services remains limited, leading to late-stage diagnoses and poorer outcomes.

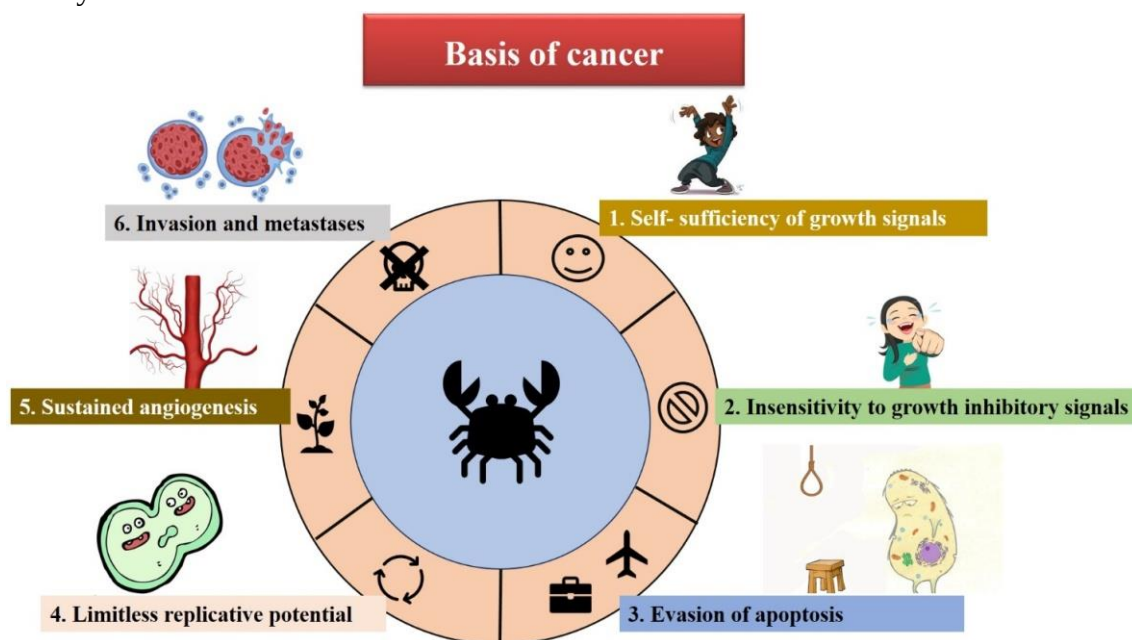
Government initiatives

Recognizing the urgency of addressing cervical cancer, the Indian government has

implemented several initiatives aimed at prevention, screening, and treatment. These initiatives include:

- Government of India announced the establishment of Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres across the country. Screening will be done for three common cancers namely cervical, breast and oral as an integral part of service delivery.

- Treatment will be done under PM-JAY with a health insurance cover of 5 lakhs per family per year.
- In India, 13 Government Medical Colleges along with AIIMS will provide chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgical oncology services.



Awareness and education programs

Public awareness plays a pivotal role in the prevention and early detection of cervical cancer. The government, in collaboration with healthcare organizations and NGOs, conducts awareness campaigns to educate women about the importance of cervical cancer screening, vaccination, and early symptoms. These efforts aim to dispel myths, reduce stigma, and encourage women to prioritize their reproductive health.

Vaccination

India has launched its first indigenously developed vaccine against cervical cancer-CERVAVAC developed as a joint initiative by the Government of India and the Serum Institute of India.

Challenges and future directions

While significant progress has been made, challenges persist in the fight against cervical cancer in India. Limited access to healthcare services, especially in rural areas, cultural barriers, and vaccine hesitancy are

some of the hurdles that need to be addressed. Additionally, there is a need for sustained funding, infrastructure development, and capacity building to strengthen screening and treatment services nationwide.

Conclusion

India's initiatives against cervical cancer demonstrate a commitment to women's health. Through prevention, early detection, and comprehensive care, we strive for a future free from this preventable disease.