

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH



CONSENSUS DOCUMENT FOR MANAGEMENT OF GASTRIC CANCER

*Prepared as an outcome of ICMR Subcommittee
on Gastric Cancer*



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CONSENSUS DOCUMENT FOR MANAGEMENT OF GASTRIC CANCER

Prepared as an outcome of ICMR Subcommittee on
Gastric Cancer



Coordinated by
Division of Non Communicable Diseases

Indian Council of Medical Research,
Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029
2014

Disclaimer

This consensus document represents the current thinking of experts on the topic based on available evidence. This has been developed by national experts in the field and does not in any way bind a clinician to follow this guideline. One can use an alternate mode of therapy based on discussions with the patient and institution, national or international guidelines. The mention of pharmaceutical drugs for therapy does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use but will act only as a guidance for clinicians in complex decision-making.

Dr. V.M. Katoch
Secretary,
Department of Health Research
and Director General, ICMR

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Foreword

I am glad to write this foreword for Consensus Document for Management of Gastric Cancer. The ICMR had constituted sub-committees to prepare this document for management of various cancer sites. This document is the result of the hard work of various experts across the country working in the area of oncology.

This Consensus Document on Management of Gastric Cancers summarizes the modalities of treatment including the site-specific anti-cancer therapies, supportive and palliative care and molecular markers and research questions. It also interweaves clinical, biochemical and epidemiological studies.

The various subcommittees constituted under Task Force project on Review of Cancer Management Guidelines worked tirelessly in drafting cancer site-specific guidelines. Each member of the subcommittee's contribution towards drafting of these guidelines deserves appreciation and acknowledgement for their dedicated research, experience and effort for successful completion. We hope that this document would provide guidance to practicing doctors and researchers for the management of Gastric Cancer patients and also focusing their research efforts in Indian context.

It is understood that this document represents the current thinking of national experts on this topic based on available evidence and will have to be revised as we move. Mention of drugs and clinical tests for therapy do not imply endorsement or recommendation for their use, these are examples to guide clinicians in complex decision making. We are confident that this first edition of these guidelines will serve the desired purpose.



(Dr.V.M.Katoch)

Secretary, Department of Health Research &
Director General, ICMR

Message

I take this opportunity to thank Indian Council of Medical Research and all the expert members of the subcommittees for having faith and considering me as Chairperson of ICMR Task Force project on Guidelines for Management of Cancer.



The Task Force on Management of Cancers has been constituted to plan various research projects. Two sub-committees were constituted initially to review the literature on management practices. Subsequently, it was expanded to include more sub-committees to review the literature related to guidelines for management of various sites of cancer. The selected cancer sites are lung, breast, oesophagus, cervix, uterus, stomach, gall bladder, soft tissue sarcoma and osteo-sarcoma, tongue, acute myeloid leukemia, acute lymphoblastic leukemia, CLL, Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma-high grade, Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma-low grade, Hodgkin's Disease, Multiple Myeloma, Myelodysplastic Syndrome and paediatric lymphoma. All aspects related to management were considered including, specific anti-cancer treatment, supportive care, palliative care, molecular markers, epidemiological and clinical aspects. The published literature till December 2012 was reviewed while formulating consensus document and accordingly recommendations are made.

Now, that I have spent over a quarter of a century devoting my career to the fight against cancer, I have witnessed how this disease drastically alters the lives of patients and their families. The theme behind designing of the consensus document for management of cancers associated with various sites of body is to encourage all the eminent scientists and clinicians to actively participate in the diagnosis and treatment of cancers and provide educational information and support services to the patients and researchers. The assessment of the public-health importance of the disease has been hampered by the lack of common methods to investigate the overall; worldwide burden. ICMR's National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) routinely collects data on cancer incidence, mortality and morbidity in India through its co-ordinating activities across the country since 1982 by Population Based and Hospital Based Cancer Registries and witnessed the rise in cancer cases. Based upon NCRP's three year report of PBCR's (2009-2011) and Time Trends on Cancer Incidence rates report, the burden of cancer in the country has increased many fold.

In summary, the Consensus Document for management of various cancer sites integrates diagnostic and prognostic criteria with supportive and palliative care that serve our three-part mission of clinical service, education and research. Widespread use of the consensus documents will further help us to improve the document in future and thus overall optimizing the outcome of patients. I, thank all the eminent faculties and scientists for the excellent work and urge all the practicing oncologists to use the document and give us valuable inputs.

(Dr. G.K. Rath)
Chairperson
ICMR Task Force Project

Preface

Cancer is rapidly increasing in epidemic proportions in the Indian subcontinent. A recent landmark publication has observed that stomach (gastric) cancer ranks amongst the top 10 cancers in India. This requires a multipronged approach to tackle it effectively. While progress has been made in screening and preventive aspects, definitive treatment currently holds the only chance of cure for this disease which can often carry a dismal prognosis.



The plethora of information available on gastric cancer is a reflection of the vast ongoing research on gastric cancer. However, this information explosion can often leave the clinician and other care givers confused when it comes to translating this information into day to day practice.

The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), in a wonderful initiative in the right direction, set up a task force to develop consensus statement for management of Gastric Cancer in India. The task of this renowned expert group from all corners of our country was to glean and analyse the available literature, collate the highest available evidence and develop practical and sound guidelines that can be actually implemented in day to day practice in the current Indian scenario. The onus remains on us to generate Indian data, hence the research questions generated by the group will help us to take this further.

We take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the group who took time out from their busy schedules and remained committed to their assigned tasks in a time bound manner. We would also like to thank Dr. Rath and Dr. Tanvir Kaur for their tireless efforts to make us stick to timelines.

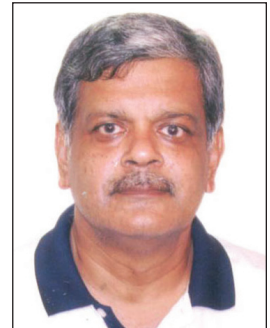
These guidelines would be updated from time to time and we would look forward to your feedback that would help us to ultimately treat our patients better than ever before.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Shailesh V. Shrikhande'.

Shailesh V. Shrikhande
Chairman
Subcommittee on Gastric Cancer

Preface

Cancer is a leading cause of disease worldwide. Globally cancer of various types effect millions of population and leads to loss of lives. According to the available data through our comprehensive nationwide registries on cancer incidence, prevalence and mortality in India among males; cancers of lung, mouth, oesophagus and stomach are leading sites of cancer and among females cancer of breast, cervix are leading sites. Literature on management and treatment of various cancers in west is widely available but data in Indian context is sparse. Cancer of gall bladder and oesophagus followed by cancer of breast marks as leading site in North-Eastern states. Therefore, cancer research and management practices become one of the crucial tasks of importance for effective management and clinical care for patient in any country. Hence, the need to develop a nationwide consensus for clinical management and treatment for various cancers was felt.



The consensus document is based on review of available evidence about effective management and treatment of cancers in Indian setting by an expert multidisciplinary team of oncologists whose endless efforts, comments, reviews and discussions helped in shaping this document to its current form. This document also represents as first leading step towards development of guidelines for various other cancer specific sites in future ahead. Development of these guidelines will ensure significant contribution in successful management and treatment of cancer and best care made available to patients.

I hope this document would help practicing doctors, clinicians, researchers and patients in complex decision making process in management of the disease. However, constant revision of the document forms another crucial task in future. With this, I would like to acknowledge the valuable contributions of all members of the Expert Committee in formulating, drafting and finalizing these national comprehensive guidelines which would bring uniformity in management and treatment of disease across the length and breadth of our country.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D.K. Shukla', written in a cursive style.

(Dr.D.K.Shukla)
Head, NCD Division

Acknowledgement

The Consensus Document on Management of Cancer is a concerted outcome of effort made by experts of varied disciplines of oncology across the nation. The Indian Council of Medical Research has constituted various sub committees to formulate the document for management of different cancer sites. The Task Force on Management of Cancers has been constituted to formulate the guidelines for management of cancer sites. The sub-committees were constituted to review to review the literature related to management and treatment practices being adopted nationally and internationally of different cancer sites. The selected cancer sites are that of lung, breast, oesophagus, cervix, uterus, stomach, gall bladder, soft tissue sarcoma and osteo-sarcoma, tongue, acute myeloid leukaemia, ALL, CLL, NHL-high grade, NHL-low grade, HD, MM, MDS, and paediatric lymphoma. All aspects related to treatment were considered including, specific anti-cancer treatment, supportive care, palliative care, molecular markers, epidemiological and clinical aspects.



This document represents a joint effort of large effort of large number of individuals and it is my pleasure to acknowledge the dedication and determination of each member who worked tirelessly in completion of the document.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. GK Rath, chairperson, ICMR Task Force on Guidelines for Management of Cancer for his constant guidance and review in drafting the consensus document especially perseverance behind each subcommittee in formulating these documents. The chairperson of subcommittee is specially acknowledged in getting the members together, organizing the meetings and drafting the document.

I would like to express gratitude to Dr. VM Katoch, Secretary, Department of Health Research and Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, for taking his special interest and understanding the need of formulating the guidelines which are expected to help cancer patients.

I would like to acknowledge here the initiative undertaken with the able guidance of Dr. Bela Shah. I would like to thank Dr. DK Shukla for his support and coordination in finalizing this document. I would also like to acknowledge the assistance provided by administrative staff. This document is the result of the deliberations by subcommittees constituted for this purpose. The guidelines were further ratified by circulation to extended group of researchers and practitioners drawn from all over the country. It is hoped that these guidelines will help the practicing doctors to treat cancer patients effectively and thus help them to lead a normal and healthy life.

The ICMR appreciatively acknowledges the valuable contribution of the members for extending their support in formulating these guidelines. The data inputs provided by National Cancer Registry Programme are gratefully acknowledged.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tanvir Kaur".

(Dr. Tanvir Kaur)
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