ALGERIA’S CANCER PLAN
2015-2019

Strategic vision of a patient-centered fight against cancer

Vision stratégique de lutte contre le cancer centrée sur le malade

Larbi ABID
AORTIC Congress 2015 in Africa
Marrakech, Morocco 18/22 November 2015
Roadmap to Cancer Control in Africa
Public health dimensions of cancer

Characteristics:

- Significant and continuing growth in number of cases
- Diverse causes
- Multiple forms of diagnosis, therapeutic and monitoring
- Imposes a particularly high and growing financial burden, and threatens to unbalance the financial architecture of the health system.
Extent of the disease in Algeria

• Based on the 14 regional cancer registries:
  • 1990: incidence = 80/100 000
  • 2010: incidence = 130/100 000
  • 2014: new cases = 45000
Seven forms of cancer account for 70% of all cancers

• Prognosis can be improved by:
  ▫ **Prevention**: lung, cervical.
  ▫ **Screening**: breast, colorectal.
  ▫ **Early Detection**: colorectal, prostate, bladder, thyroid.
Obstacles on the patient pathway

- **Dysfunctions** related to organizational problems and to lack of real cross-sectoral coordination, health information not imported to Cancer Register
- **Information deficit.** Insufficient information provided to patients both concerning access to health care system and also basic information (prevention, screening etc.)
- **Regional disparities** in resources and organization of care
- **Delayed diagnosis** due to non-existent cancer network:
  - Practitioner in initial consultation does not have the information to diagnose and refer the patient correctly
  - Several provinces do not have pathologists
  - No protocol for multidisciplinary management protocol by localization
  - Shortages in medicines result in the late initiation of treatment
The Cancer Plan

Main objectives:

Reduce mortality and morbidity from cancer

Improve reduction of risk factors

Develop Control Strategy combining priority actions, intersectoral and interdisciplinary approaches

Promote training in all fields
Strategic areas of the cancer plan

• **8 strategic axes**
  1. Reduce risk factors
  2. Improve detection of certain cancers
  3. Improve cancer diagnosis
  4. Revitalize treatment ➔ interdisciplinarity
  5. Organize guidance, support and monitoring
  6. Develop a cancer information and communication system
  7. Strengthen training and research on cancer
  8. Strengthen financing capabilities of cancer management

• **19 goals**
• **60 shares**
• **239 measures**
Axis 1: Improve reduction in risk factors

- Fight against tobacco: 5 goals; 16 shares, 37 measures.
  - Goal 1: Reduce smoking
  - Goal 2: Increase protection against exposure to tobacco smoke
  - Goal 3: Create an environment favorable to reduction in demand for tobacco
  - Goal 4: Support smoking cessation.
  - Goal 5: Create systems to monitor smoking and its consequences.

Smoking is responsible for 70% of cancers of the trachea, bronchus and lung, 42% of cancers of the mouth and pharynx, 42% of esophageal cancers, 28% of bladder cancers and 22% of pancreatic cancers.
Axis 2: Improve detection of certain cancers

- Breast cancer screening: 1 goal; 3 shares, 19 measures.
- **Action 1**: Establish a committee of experts to organize breast cancer screening measures ➔ 12 steps

- **Action 2**: Strengthen the national cervical cancer prevention program ➔ 4 measures

- **Action 3**: Improve professional practice concerning breast cancer and cervical cancer ➔ 3 steps

Earlier detection of Colorectal cancers can be achieved through better training of general practitioners, not screening.

The PSA test is not effective for mass screening.

A Retinoblastoma screening program should be introduced.
Axis 3: Improve diagnosis

- 4 goals; 6 shares, 29 measures.
  - **Goal 1:** Improve services offered by lab-path anatomy
    - 3 actions, 14 measures:
      - Reorganize the lab ACP (1 lab / wilaya) connection.
      - Reference laboratory
      - Align ACP labs with universal norms
  - **Goal 2:** Improve medical imaging services
    - Identify and strengthen referral structures (public and private): 7 steps
  - **Goal 3:** Strengthen the Nuclear Medicine Department: 4 steps
    - Increase the number of nuclear medicine services
    - Acquire PET Scan facility
    - Strengthen radiopharmaceutical lab
  - **Goal 4:** Strengthen Biological Services
    - Standardize all biology services that concern biological research into cancer, including molecular biology
Axis 4: Revitalize treatment

- 10 shares, 43 measures.
- **Goal 1: Improve the care of patients**
  - **Action 1:** Organize RCP, measures 7
    - Formalized organization of the RCP
    - Coordination between public and private
    - Traceability in the patient's file
  - **Action 2:** Improve cancer surgery services
    - Standardize and optimize technical platforms in surgical services
    - Develop mastology and breast surgery services
    - Develop thoracic surgery services
    - Equip pilot services in neurosurgery
    - Develop radiosurgery
  - **Action 3:** Improve medical oncology services
    - Define the minimum of supplies required for a specific treatment
    - Strengthen resources
    - Strengthen personnel services
    - Special status for paramedics
    - Establish home hospitalization
Axis 4: Revitalize treatment (cont.)

- 10 shares, 43 measures
- Action 4: Expand the support capabilities of pediatric oncology
  - Create pediatric oncology services
  - Develop and validate therapeutic standards
  - Strengthen the social integration of sick children
- Action 5: Promote oncology pharmacy
  - Develop oncology pharmacy and cancer treatment recovery units
  - Define a profile for chemotherapy preparation
- Action 6: Improve the management of hematological malignancies
  - Provide a hematology service in each CAC
  - Promote autograft
  - Develop allograft in the center and regions
  - Identify children with hematologic malignancies hospitalized in pediatric services
Axis 4: Revitalize treatment (cont.)

- 10 shares, 43 measures
- Action 7: Improve the performance of radiotherapy services
- Action 8: Shorten time to appointment in radiotherapy
- Action 9: Improve the quality and safety of care in radiotherapy
- Action 10: Promote palliative care
  - Creation of day hospitals
  - Care and home care
  - Availability of drugs (opiates)
Axis 5: Organize guidance, support and patient follow-up

- 4 actions, 22 measures
- **Objective 1: Provide psychological support for patients and their families**
  - Action 1: Revive teams providing cancer information, support and listening
  - Action 2: Develop onco-psychology in all anti-cancer centers
  - Action 3: Involve the community sector and civil society in providing support to patients and their families
- **Objective 2: Reduce barriers to accessing centers for diagnosis and treatment of cancer**
  - Action 1: Establish lodging for patients and their carers during treatment in each wilaya
Axis 6: Develop a cancer information and communication system

- **7 actions, 32 measures**
- **Objective 1:** Improve epidemiological surveillance of cancers by setting up coordination of cancer registries
  - Action 1: Institutionalize and implement population-based Cancer Registries
  - Action 2: Create a network of actors and national partners of the Cancer Registry
- **Objective 2:** Improve information and communication about cancer
  - Action 1: Develop communication programs about risk factors
  - Action 2: Raise awareness about the problem of cancer in the population
  - Action 3: Keep health professionals up-to-date about medical and technological advances in the treatment of cancer
Axis 7: Strengthen training and research on cancer

- **11 actions, 50 measures**
- Introduction to new jobs and translational research

**Objective 1: Optimize the training of all actors in the chain of care in the field of oncology**
- Action 1: Consider specific training for the general practitioner
- Action 2: Establish additional training in oncology for Surgeons, Oncologists, Radiologists and Biologists (abilities or skills certificate)
- Action 3: Strengthen training of paramedics in the treatment of cancer
- Action 4: Strengthen the training of radiation oncologists, nuclear medicine physicians, radiologists and medical physicists.
- Action 5: Promote continuing medical education of all specialists in oncology, in each field, through internships to upgrade skills
- Action 7: Strengthen the training of support staff in the management of cancer.
Axis 7: Strengthen training and research on cancer (cont.)

- **11 actions, 50 measures**
- Introduction to new jobs and translational research
- **Objective 2: Develop research in oncology**
  - Action 1: Promote research in the field of oncology
  - Action 2: Promote applied research
  - Action 3: Promote research in biotechnology and genetics
  - Action 4: Develop cooperation and national and international partnerships in the context of cancer research
**Axis 8: Strengthen the financing capabilities of cancer management**

- **Goal 1:** Optimize and rationalize the financial resources available
  - Action 1: Optimize the use of special funds allocations
  - Action 2: Rationalize pharmaceutical expenditure
- **Goal 2:** Budget for programs of prevention, training and research
  - Action 1: Improve communications and qualification of staff in charge of cancer
  - Budget for tobacco control programs
  - Budget for breast cancer screening programs
  - 2% of the operating budget to go to the continuous training of personnel.
  - 2% to research
Budgeting the Cancer Plan

- To ensure the success of this plan, **substantial financing needs to be reserved for it**.
- Annual budgets must show the planned workload and objectives for each health institution receiving funding.
- Project costing implementation by year sets the annual cost of the cancer plan at **50 billion dinars**.
- Over five years, funding for the National Cancer Plan 2015-2019 would increase to **180 billion dinars**.
In addition to the national budget and contributions from social security, the sector has a dedicated trust fund:

- The “Fight against Cancer Fund” to support spending on awareness programs, prevention, screening and treatment (income: DA 3 billion / year) created in 2012
# Timetable for the Cancer Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic areas of cancer plan</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Priority 1: improve prevention against risk factors &quot;focus&quot; = fight against tobacco</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Priority 2: improve the detection of certain cancers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Priority 3: improve cancer diagnosis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Priority 4: revitalizing treatment &quot;focus&quot; multidisciplinary Consultation Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Line 5: Organize guidance, support and monitoring of the patient</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Priority 6: develop the information and communication system cancers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Line 7: strengthening training and research into new cancers .initiation trades translational research</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axe stratégique 8 : Strengthening financing capabilities of the management of cancer.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evaluation and Monitoring

- Procedures, formulated by experts, will define the series of tasks to be carried out
- Implementation of these procedures must precede the implementation of actions and measures
- A national committee will be charged with overseeing the fight against cancer
- A timetable has been drawn up detailing the tasks to be carried out on a quarterly, six-monthly, or annual basis over the five years covered by the Cancer Plan.
Conclusion

• Situational analysis shows that Algeria has a significant advantages in terms of infrastructure, equipment, human resources and even financial resources
• These strengths and resources are currently misused because of a lack of organization

“The success of this plan is a challenge for us and a tough battle that we must win, because it will be the engine that will drive our entire health system in the direction of the changes to which we all aspire”