

Importance of Collaboration in Cancer Research in Asian Countries

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The incidence and mortality of cancer are increasing worldwide. The cancer has become the one of the most important issues in the medicine. Recent progress in medical care, including a prevention, diagnosis and treatment, is remarkable and age-standardized mortality rate is now coming down in developed countries. However, the patient benefit from this progress depends on where they live. In 2002, there were an estimated 11 million new cancer cases reported worldwide, and 7 million patients died of cancer. It is also reported that 45% of these new cancer cases occurred in Asia, 26% in Europe, 15% in North America, 7% in Central/South America, 6% in Africa and 1% in Oceania. We have to realize that almost half of cancer patients in the world are found in Asian countries. These phenomena relate to cancer incidence and diagnostic technology. The ageing of the population, genetic factors, prevalence of viral infection, or lifestyle factors such as smoking all contribute to an increase in the incidence of cancer. To overcome the cancer in this area, collaborative study is necessary in Asian countries.