

Editorial

I wish to express my appreciation to the RMJ on behalf of the Rwanda Surgical Society (RSS) for accepting to publish the 14-16 November 2013 6th Annual Conference Proceedings Abstracts on "ADDRESSING NCDs: THE ROLE OF SURGERY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF CANCERS IN RWANDA".

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in the world and as such Rwanda is currently focusing on policy, strategies and programs to prevent it and manage patients with cancer on the basis of a data-driven approach. It is against this background that hospital-based cancer registry is underway and hopefully this will provide in the near future sufficient data to develop more relevant screening and management protocols in the management of cancer in Rwanda.

Surgical oncology is one among the 3 traditional fundamental cancer management methods namely chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgery. These three therapeutics arms as well as early detection programs through well targeted screening strategies are fortunately at the center of the national cancer management policy.

From time immemorial, surgery has been one the principal tools to manage cancer. Despite a more understanding of the cancer disease through the development of molecular biology, genetics and immunology, surgery remains one important cancer management method from the diagnosis (biopsy), through the curative excision, the surgical staging with lymphadenectomy to the palliation for advanced disease.

Surgeons ought therefore to keep themselves acquainted with the ever growing mass of knowledge with regards to tumor biology and new tumor targeted therapies that therefore define the new role of surgery in the management of cancer.

This conference was designed to browse across the malignancy pattern in Rwanda with special focus on the so-called "surgical tumors" as a wake-up call for surgeons, other healthcare professionals, decision-makers as well as the general public on the need to develop surgical knowledge and skills as well as other methods to address cancer in Rwanda.

Off course management of cancer is a multidisciplinary approach by nature; as much as we need to train more surgical oncologists, the same applies to medical, pediatric and radiation oncologists, radiologists, pharmacologists, nurses oncologists and many more. It is our hope that through these proceedings, younger colleagues will find interest in developing their career in oncology that is still virgin in Rwanda and thus contribute to the future of this country.

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