

# Review of: ""Establishing a Multi-disciplinary Adult Oncology Unit at Muhimbili National Hospital: Lessons Learned, Challenges, and Opportunities Amidst Tanzania's Growing Cancer Burden""

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Overall, this journal article provides a comprehensive overview of the establishment of the adult oncology unit at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) in Tanzania. The article outlines the background, challenges, benefits, and limitations of the initiative while highlighting the importance of collaboration, resource allocation, and continuous improvement. Here are some specific critiques and feedback: Clarity and Organization: The article is well-structured and clearly outlines the context, facility assessment, implementation, benefits, limitations, and areas for opportunity. This makes it easy for readers to follow the narrative.

Comprehensive Assessment: The article provides a thorough assessment of the challenges faced in addressing the rising cancer burden in Tanzania. It accurately describes the limitations of the healthcare system, resource constraints, and the lack of a centralized national cancer registry.

Strengths: The article effectively communicates the achievements of the MNH adult oncology unit, such as improved patient outcomes, reduced wait times, multidisciplinary collaboration, and revenue generation. These are important points that demonstrate the unit's success.

Facility Assessment: The section on the facility assessment is informative and demonstrates the importance of evaluating available resources and infrastructure before implementing such a unit. It highlights the need for careful planning and resource allocation.

Collaborative Outlook: The article emphasizes the significance of collaboration among different departments, as well as the training and capacity-building efforts. This underscores the importance of multidisciplinary teamwork and continuous professional development.

Challenges and Opportunities: The article acknowledges the challenges faced, including space constraints, medication availability, staff shortages, and cancer stigma. However, it also identifies opportunities for improvement in each of these areas, which is a positive approach.

Data and Figures: The use of figures and statistics, such as the cancer incidence chart, adds credibility to the article and helps readers visualize the impact of the unit. This section could have been boosted by more qualitative data, notably

feedback from patients who are attending this facility.

**Recommendations:** While the article mentions the need for the development of a dedicated research team and strengthening the cancer registry, it could provide more specific recommendations on how to address these issues. For instance, discussing potential funding sources for research or strategies for improving data collection and management.

**Community Engagement:** The article briefly mentions the importance of community awareness programs to combat cancer stigma. Providing more details on specific initiatives or strategies undertaken in this regard would be beneficial.

**Conclusion:** The conclusion effectively summarizes the key points made throughout the article and reiterates the importance of adaptability and commitment in improving cancer care in Tanzania.

In summary, this journal article provides valuable insights into the establishment of the adult oncology unit at MNH and its impact on cancer care in Tanzania. It effectively highlights the achievements, challenges, and future opportunities for improvement. To enhance the article further, consider providing more specific recommendations for addressing challenges and expanding on community engagement efforts. I strongly agree with reviewers who concur that this article can potentially provide a roadmap for future developments in similar resource-constrained areas.