

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.

This is an excellent article that describes the efforts by the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) in supporting the country's efforts to address the growing burden of cancer. The manuscript is well structured, and the methodology is well detailed.

I have a few comments for the authors in order to further tighten up the manuscript as follows:

a. Methodology – in the subheading “*Rationale for Expanding Cancer Care to Tertiary Hospitals*”

I suggest to the authors that they consider adding some explanations linking the rationale with the health sector policy environment in Tanzania with regard to cancer care. In this section, the:

- Health Sector Strategic Plan July 2015 – June 2020, is referred to, which showed the commitment of the government that “*the health sector will scale up cancer prevention, cure, and care services*” (MoHSW, 2015, Pg.47).

b. Methodology – in the subheading “*Program Implementation: Enhancing Human Resources at MNH*”:

- The second sentence in the paragraph “*Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH). Recognizing the initial staffing challenges, the intervention aimed to augment and train*”; I suggest to the authors that they use only the abbreviation MNH since the long form (*Muhimbili National Hospital*) and the abbreviation were already written in the second paragraph of the subheading “*The Urgency of Expanding Cancer Care*” under the Introduction section.

c. Methodology – in the subheading “*Nursing Staff Expansion*”:

The authors have noted that they used a “*trainer approach*” which resulted in the recruitment of 11 staff. Readers would benefit more if the authors could put a sentence in brackets after the words “*trainer approach*” explaining what exactly was entailed in the approach so that readers will not confuse it with the Training of Trainers (ToTs) approach (Pearce, *et al.*, 2012; Mormina & Pinder, 2018; Poitras, *et al.*, 2021), which is usually used in cascade trainings. Therefore, I suggest to the authors that they consider explaining more on the “*trainer approach*.”

d. Discussion

- The first paragraph – last line: *led to the establishment of the Adult Oncology Unit at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH)*; I suggest to the authors to use only the abbreviation MNH.

e. Discussion

- I suggest to the authors to add a paragraph before *Future Plans*, which will explain the benefits or contribution of the established Oncology Unit at MNH as follows:

The Oncology Unit at MNH will contribute to the health sector targets of reducing mortality due to non-communicable diseases, including cancer, in those aged 30-70 years, as noted in the impact indicators for monitoring the Health Sector Strategic Plan July 2021 – June 2026 (MoHCDGEC, 2021, pg.79)

References

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