

Peer Review

Review of: "Indian Health Ministry Refuses to Make Cancer a Notifiable Disease Despite ICMR's Recommendation"

Sarita Kumari¹

1. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, India

The commentary article discusses an urgent issue of utmost importance for healthcare in India. Dismissing the cause by labelling the disease as non-communicable is neither a valid reason nor scientifically appropriate, as certain risk factors, e.g., the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), are spread through skin-to-skin contact and are sexually transmitted. HPV-related cancers contribute a significant burden of cancers that are completely preventable through vaccination and screening. The rising burden of risk factors for cancers, such as obesity, smoking, alcohol, dietary, and environmental factors, is all concerning, and if there is no documentation about the actual incidence and mortality rates due to cancers, then it would be too late to take appropriate action at the state or national level. Due to poor awareness and screening coverage, we are lacking in even diagnosing certain cancers in their early stages. Excluding cancers from becoming notified will push India's healthcare decades backward compared to developed nations. India can learn from nations such as the US, where cancer is a notifiable disease and the epidemiological data of cancers is well maintained, which has helped in the further advancement of cancer care in the region.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.