

Fighting Cancer vs. Preventing Cancer

Outline

I. Introduction

A. Cancer is a global health burden that continues to claim the lives of millions of people around the world. It is characterised by abnormal cell division that results in a malignant tumor. Oncologists have established that what causes deaths is the process of metastasis. In 2018, the WHO records that around 9.6 million people around succumbed to cancer, and one out of six mortalities emanate from cancer. These figures indicate that Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the world after cardiovascular diseases. As such, the impact of cancer on the social and economic lives of the patients and their relatives. Further, medical experts have identified some of the risk factors that people can avoid an attempt to prevent cancer. This section will provide an elaborate background of the topic to set the stage for arguments in the main body.

B. Sociological Specialisations

1. Politics: This section will examine the role played by politics in the treatment of cancer and prevention of cancer. This involves the availability of equipped oncological centers for early screening and diagnosis of various cancers (Baumgartner, 2018). In particular, the paper will explore the legislative function of authorities pertaining to treatment and cancer prevention campaigns. The political perspective of the fight against cancer will be reviewed with respect specific examples.

2. Health and medicine: This section will give insight into the social implications of fighting and preventing cancer. Special attention will be put on the costs of cancer management, and how these costs are exacerbating the poverty index in low and middle income countries. Furthermore, this section will touch on the psychological impact and trauma brought about by cancer. Most importantly, the medical aspect of cancer, including the fact the cause of cancer has not yet been established, will be discussed in this section. Hence, the healthcare services provided to cancer patients will be explained in details (Baden et al., 2012).
 3. Aging and death: It is a sad reality that most cancer patients ultimately lose the battle against the disease. This section will explore the sociological ramifications of cancer by looking into its impact on ageing and death perceptions. For example, how do cancer patients view aging and death? How has cancer affected people's views on death? Do cancer patients and their close relatives lose hope? (Soleimani et al., 2016).
- C. Thesis statement: This paper will argue that the fight against cancer will only be won if people are sensitized about the risk factors and screening equipment availed for early diagnosis.
- D. Cancer can be controlled and treated if it is diagnosed on time.
1. Early diagnosis ensures that the cancer is managed and destroyed before it spreads to other parts of the body (Baumgartner, 2018).
 - a. Controlling the process of metastasis lowers the cost of cancer treatment and improves the quality of life of the patients. As a result, the high

mortality rate for cancer patients is likely to decline in future as more people will be more enlightened about the risk factors that are likely to increase the chances of getting cancer (Baden et al., 2012).

- b. Early diagnosis is promoted by sensitisation campaigns, and this can be effective in minimising the prevalence of the disease all over the globe (Baden et al., 2012).

II. Fighting Cancer vs. Preventing Cancer

A. Politics play an important role in the fight against cancer. For example, legislation and policymaking. However, little attention has been put on the prevention aspect.

- 1. More government resources should be injected into sensitization campaigns to help people understand the nitty-gritty of the cancer menace (Baumgartner, 2018).
 - a. The sensitization campaigns should be funded by the government and undertaken in all public organisations (Baumgartner, 2018).
- 2. The war on cancer can be stepped up by equipping medical facilities with cancer screening machines and subsidising the cost of diagnosis (Koijen & Van Nieuwerburgh, 2018).
 - b. Government authorities need to create a policy that compels people to undergo regular cancer screening. This will ensure that any new incidences are handled on time and the threat of late diagnosis eliminated (Koijen & Van Nieuwerburgh, 2018).
 - c. Being a global health burden, concerted efforts should be put into the management, treatment, and prevention of the disease. For example,

developed countries and international health agencies like the WHO should help in funding oncology in developing countries with little resources for investment in healthcare (De Souza et al., 2016).

- B. The best practices of health and medicine in the management of cancer are determined by healthcare policies available in a given country or state.
 - 1. Cancer is a medical condition that calls for medical remedies in combating the global menace (Potts & Semino, 2019).
 - a. Higher learning institutions should train and undertake more focused research on the subject matter. This will involve ensuring oncologists have the best knowledge and skills needed in treatment and management of cancer (Adedimeji et al., 2017).
 - b. Enhanced medical research is highly necessary as this will link the available cancer treatment methods with the knowledge.
- C. Old people are at the highest risk of being diagnosed with some types of cancer, such as prostate cancer in men. Late diagnosis is the most difficult to treat, and often leads to death.
 - 1. Cancer affects the aging process of people who are either predisposed to the risk factors or have genetic connection with cancer cells (Soleimani et al., 2016).
 - a. Late diagnosis is the largest cause of cancer deaths due to high screening expenses involved (Soleimani et al., 2016).
 - b. The prevalence and mortality rate is high in low income countries that are ill-equipped to fight the disease (Soleimani et al., 2016).

- c. The fact that most cancer patients ultimately die, irrespective of the quality of care they receive, is one of the main setbacks in the fight against the disease.
 - 2. Most cancer deaths are a result of stage-4 diagnosis that is characterised by high level metastasis. This implies that the cancer at this stage has spread to other parts of the body, and as doctors concentrate on the primary tumor, they are not aware that the cancer has spread to other body organs (Barton et al., 2006).
- D. Cancer prevention is the only remaining solution in the fight against the killer disease.
 - 1. Scientists recommend regular physical exercises and healthy eating as the best methods of preventing the prevalence of cancer (Hiatt et al., 2018; Meyskens Jr. et al., 2016).
 - a. Experts have argued that fresh fruits and plenty of vegetables increase antioxidants in the body and inhibits the growth of cancer cells (Thomson, & Bea, 2019).
 - b. Regular body exercises prevent anomalous cell division that is the main cause of cancer tumors (Pimple, Mishra, & Shastri, 2016).

III. Conclusion

- A. Cancer can best be fought by following the preventive and early diagnostic channels.

1. Given the huge financial and social burden of cancer, government authorities should inject more capital into the sensitisation campaigns aimed at informing the public about the disease.
 2. Authorities at both local and national levels should equip medical centers with modern equipment needed for accurate and timely diagnosis.
- B. The effectiveness of cancer prevention depends on the healthcare policies put in place by relevant government authorities.
1. Cancer is a health burden that must be handled by well-trained oncologists.
The fact that the precise cause of cancer is yet to be established means there is dire need for more advanced research in the area.
- C. Aging and death are both themes in fight against cancer.
1. On the one hand, old people are more susceptible to cancer than their young counterparts. On the other hand, late cancer diagnosis is linked to the high rate of cancer mortality in developing countries. Overall, the preventive measures put in place should be effective in encouraging early diagnosis and minimising the rate of prevalence.

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