





CANCER...

spares no one. It touches the rich and poor, young and old, men, women and children.

In addition to the financial cost of disease, cancer has important psychosocial repercussions for patients and their families and remains, in many parts of the world, a stigmatizing disease.

Source:
WHO 'The 58th World Health Assembly adopts resolution on cancer prevention and control.' dated 25 May 2005



EARLY DETECTION CAN SAVE LIVES...

One third of the cancer burden could be cured if detected early and treated adequately.

Early detection of cancer is based on the observation that treatment is more effective when cancer is detected earlier. The aim is to detect the cancer when it is localized. There are two components of early detection programmes for cancer:

- Education to promote early diagnosis by recognizing early signs of cancer such as: lumps, sores, persistent indigestion, persistent coughing, and bleeding from the body's orifices; and the importance of seeking prompt medical attention for these symptoms.
- Screening is the identification by means of tests of people with early cancer or pre-cancer before signs are detectable. Screening tests are available for breast cancer (Mammography) and cervical cancer (Cytology tests).

Source:
WHO Cancer Fact Sheet 2005

GLOBAL ACTION AGAINST CANCER

Many countries have already recognized the urgency to respond to the cancer epidemic with national cancer policies and programmes. However, there are still important gaps between knowledge and practice in both developing and developed countries.

In response to the urgency of the rising incidence of cancer, WHO Member States have approved a resolution on Cancer Prevention and Control at the 58th World Health Assembly on 25 May 2005 in Geneva. This resolution calls on all Member States to develop national cancer programmes, which include increased prevention measures, early detection and screening, as well as improved treatment and palliative care.

Source:
WHO 'The 58th World Health Assembly adopts resolution on cancer prevention and control.' dated 25 May 2005