



ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Assessing the stage of cancer presentation among patients attending the oncology unit of the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Shika, Zaria, Nigeria.

Raji FO^{1*}, Yahuza NN², Alabelewe RM³ and DanMusa UM⁴.

¹Department of Pharmaceutical Services, Council for Legal Education, The Nigerian Law School, Bwari, Abuja, Nigeria; ²Department of Pharmaceutical Services, Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Shika- Zaria, Nigeria; ³Department of Pharmaceutical Services, Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Shika- Zaria, Nigeria and ⁴Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Kaduna State University, Kaduna State, Nigeria

Address for correspondence:

Pharm. Fatimah O. Raji
Department of Pharmaceutical Services,
Council for Legal Education, The Nigerian
Law School, Bwari, Abuja, Nigeria.
Email: rpharty@gmail.com

To cite this article: Raji FO, Yahuza NN, Alabelewe RM and DanMusa UM. Assessing the stage of cancer presentation among patients attending the oncology unit of the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital Shika, Zaria, Nigeria. Journal of Basic and Social Pharmacy Research, 2022;2(6):20-27
ISSN: 2705-3245

ABSTRACT

Background: Cancer has become a major source of morbidity and mortality globally. Despite the threat that cancer poses to global health, few countries have data on cancer incidence in Sub-Saharan Africa. The stage at which a cancer is diagnosed has a tremendous impact on the type of treatment, recovery, and survival, hence, correct staging is critical in cancer treatment/management.

Objectives: To document stages of cancer presentation among patients who attended the oncology unit of Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Zaria for six months and determine the relationship between the stages of presentation and prognosis

Methods: The study was carried out at Oncology and Radiotherapy departments of the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Shika-Zaria located in the Northern part of Nigeria. It was a prospective observational study involving two stages, recruitment stage (6 weeks) and drug therapy follow-up stage (18weeks). A self-designed data collection form (Proforma) was used. The data collected was analysed to obtain averages and percentages using IBM SPSS Statistics (Version 23) and MS Excel 2013. Descriptive statistics including cross tabulation (frequencies and percent) were performed.

Results: Most patients presented at the late stage (55%) i.e. Stage III and IV which could have led to low prognosis amongst patients.

Conclusion: This study showed that most patients presented at late stage due to different factors such as proximity to the health care centre, strong belief in complementary and alternative medicine, financial constraint, different sociocultural belief among other factors. Public awareness, screening and establishment of cancer centres are hereby recommended.

Keywords: Cancer, cancer stages; presentation; prognosis; Cancer incidence; Oncology unit