

STATUS OF RADIATION THERAPY IN TANZANIA

BY DR HELLEN ROBERT MAKWANI

WORK STAFFS AVAILABLE

- We are 25 Radiation Oncologists in Tanzania
- We have four physicist in Tanzania.
- Four Oncology nurses at ORCI and two at BMC
- Two biomedical engineers.
- Six data managers.

WHAT WE HAVE

- **Cobalt-60 units**

We have two Cobalt -60 units at ORCI and one unit at BMC.

- **Brachytherapy system(s)**

We have two brachytherapy units at ORCI one will be installed in december at BMC.

- **Treatment planning system(s)**

- **One caesium machine.**

- **One simulator conventional at ORCI and one at BMC**

-

CHALLENGES...

- The challenges we face in our country with radiotherapy are we have only two centers now ie Ocean Road Cancer institute and Bugando Medical Center which have been started recently. So we have a lot of patients as compared to the treatment centers.
- Most of the patients are seen with very advanced disease ie stage three and four which limits the potential of curing the disease in an earlier stage.
- Most of the patients are poor although with ORCI the service is free, most of them fail to reach ORCI due to poverty .As they report to us the disease has already advanced.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE NEXT FIVE TO TEN YEARS.

- The physical infrastructure in Tanzania in the next five to ten years is to have good radiotherapy services and there are some plans in the development of new centers ie Mbeya Referral Hospitals and Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center.
- Increased interest in care of cancer patients as more oncology doctors, nurses, radiotherapists are joining the field.

TRAININGS AVAILABLE WITHIN THE COUNTRY

- we do have Bachelor of science in Radiation Technology and Masters of Medicine in Clinical Oncology.
- We use the resources available in treatment of cancer patients though the centers are only two and at ORCI we see almost 5000 new cases per year.
- We are looking forward to have Linnear accelerators both with photons and electrons

CONT.....

- We would like also to have a PET CT as well as CT Simulator and we wish to start also oesophageal brachytherapy in future.

- THANK YOU