

ACTIVITIES OF THE PROVINCIAL CANCER CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD OF İSTANBUL

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Cancer threatens human life as the second cause of death following cardiovascular diseases and threatens the societal order with the problems it brings about. The fatality of cancer, which is a preventable disease, by change of certain habitudes such as avoiding smoking, can be reduced by implementation of methods of early diagnosis.

Under the light of the “Directive on Provincial Cancer Control Coordination”, which entered into force upon its publication in the Official Gazette in 2003, a “provincial cancer control advisory board” was established in our province for the purpose of reduction of cancers and cancer-related deaths. The board is composed of representatives from public and private health institutions that operate at the provincial level and provide information or services in relation to cancer control, from chambers and relevant non-governmental organizations. The board, comprising of approximately 70 members, convenes once a year, prepares proposals to reduce cancer-related deaths and the cancer burden of the society at the provincial level; these proposals are put into process upon the order of the provincial directorate of health and the governorship, and thus they find an application area at the provincial level.

In line with the decisions of the Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Board, convened under the chairmanship of Specialist Dr. Mehmet Uhri, the provincial cancer control coordinator, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fatma Tülin Kayhan, the vice director of health, the following activities have been conducted at the provincial level in the last three years:

A- FOR PREVENTION OF CANCER

1- Departing from the fact that tobacco and tobacco products are responsible for 30% of all cancer diseases, effective implementation of Law No 4207 on prevention of harmful effects of tobacco products and establishing isolations and measures in closed public areas to prevent passive smoking of those who do not smoke

2- Promotion and certification of smoking-free health institutions

3- Departing from the fact that the internet cafes are licensed as educational places, reminding of the fact that they are within the scope of prohibition of smoking

4- Imposition of restrictions on the use of the name “Nargile (water pipe)” in advertisements and promotions, reminding of the fact that it is covered by the prohibition on advertisement of tobacco products in accordance with again Law No 4207

5- Since the beginning of year 2007 and at the provincial level, enforcement of prohibition of smoking in caps in order to prevent exposure of cap drivers and passengers to cancer by passive smoking

6- Related with the previous article, completion in year 2007 of regulations to respond to the requests of non-addicted persons for allocation of special tribunes in places such as stadiums and open air theatres for non-smokers in order to prevent passive smoking

7- Establishment of work groups on carcinogens and execution of activities to raise public awareness in relation to the relationship between fast food and cancers.

B- FOR REDUCTION OF MORTALITY OF CANCER BY EARLY DIAGNOSIS

1- Starting from the fact that the fatality of breast cancer can be reduced by early diagnosis, delivery of trainings on breast self-examination, coordination of breast examination and mammography and activities intended for early diagnosis of breast cancer, delivery of trainings to raise awareness on the significance of the issue

2- Entering into service of “breast disease polyclinics” in 12 training and research hospitals in our province in order to provide secondary health care services for cases that are detected by breast screening and require further analyses

3- Departing from the fact that the fatality of cervix cancers can also be prevented by early diagnosis, execution of cervical smear screenings at the provincial in cancer early diagnosis and screening centers and mother and child health units as well as women health centers of the Metropolitan municipality, execution of training organizations for the purpose of dissemination of awareness raising trainings to the provincial level

4- Entering into service of “colposcopy polyclinics” in three training and research hospitals selected in our province in order to provide secondary health care services for cases that are detected by cervical smear screening and require further analyses

5- Organization of activities to inform and raise awareness of the public on skin cancers that can occur due to harmful effects of the sun rays

6- Imposition of the obligation to hang compulsory informative notes on carcinogenic (skin cancer) effects of solarium and similar practices.

C- FOR TREATMENT OF CANCER AND REHABILITATION OF CANCER PATIENTS

1- Supervision of all private and public cancer treatment centers operating at the provincial level, and taking measures to eliminate any deficits in relation to physical conditions, equipment and personnel, and coordination of units

2- Establishment of special units in the form of “patient guest houses”, which will provide care and health services for terminal period cancer patients, and assurance of an administrative structure which will enable the use of these services by patients’ relatives

3- Coordination of units that provide psychosocial support activities for cancer patients, taking steps to ensure communication between the nongovernmental agencies that conduct activities to reduce the social burden of cancer and cancer patients and their relatives

4- Establishment of work groups to organize and support scientific studies on alternative and complementary medical practices

5- Keeping alive pioneering initiatives for the establishment of an oncology complex, the lack of which is felt more deeply day by day, as a demand extended by the governorship to the societal level.

The Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Board has established subcommittees in year 2007; and, in line with the reports submitted by these subcommittees, it continues its activities in cancer control at the provincial level.

The subcommittees of the Provincial Cancer Control Board have been established in the following forms:

SUBBOARDS OF THE PROVINCIAL CANCER CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

PRIMARY PREVENTION

1- TOBACCO AND CANCER WORK GROUP:

Prof. Dr. Orhan Özturan (Ministry of Health, Haseki Training and Research Hospital, Head of the ENT Department)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fatma Tülin Kayhan (Vice Director of Health)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ömer Soysal (Ministry of Health, Vakıf Gureba Training and Research Hospital/ Chest Diseases)
Specialist Dr. Abdülkadir Tabo (Directorate of Health, Department of Mental Health)
Specialist Dr. Mesut Kosku (Thoracic Society)
Dr. Oya İmamoğlu (Ministry of Health, Siyami Ersek Training and Research Hospital/ Chest Diseases)
Specialist Dr. İbrahim Topçu (Directorate of Health, Department of Training)
Rabi Baştürk (The Green Crescent Society)

2- FOOD AND CANCER WORK GROUP:

Prof. Dr. Şeminur Topal (Tarım ve Ziraat Odası)
Prof. Dr. Dilek Heperkan (İstanbul Technical University, Department of Food and Toxicology)
Ahmet Kavak (Provincial Director of Agriculture)
Dr. Özgü Kesmezacar (Directorate of Health, Strategy Development Unit)
Agricultural Engineer Ahmet Atalık (Chamber of Agricultural Engineers, Head of İstanbul Branch)
Food Engineer Özgür Kaya (Consumer Protection Society)
İrfan Yılmaz (Directorate of Health, Department of Environmental Health)
A: ALCOHOL AND CANCER WORK GROUP
Rabi Baştürk (Turkish Temperance Society)

3- ENVIRONMENT AND CANCER WORK GROUP:

Engineer Prof. Dr. Seval Özen (İstanbul Technical University/ Department of Environmental Engineering)
Specialist Dr. Mehmet Uhri (Provincial Coordinator of Cancer Control)
Dr. Özgü Kesmezacar (Directorate of Health, Strategy Development Unit)
Dr. Ümit Şahin (İstanbul Chamber of Medicine)
Environmental Engineer Hayriye Demiroğlu (İstanbul Chamber of Commerce)
İrfan Yılmaz (Directorate of Health, Department of Environmental Health)
İrem Sezer (İstanbul Provincial Director of Environment/ Biologist)

A: WORKPLACE ENVIRONMENT AND CANCER PREVENTION

Asst. Prof. Dr. Naci Bakırcı (Marmara University/ Department of Public Health)
Dr. Selma Okkaoğlu (Trade Union of Health Workers)

4: SKIN CANCER WORKING GROUP:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. M. Salih Gürel (Ministry of Health, İstanbul Training and Research Hospital/ Dermatology)
Dr. Muhsine Erdemol (Bakırköy Center for Early Diagnosis and Screening of Cancer)

SECONDARY PREVENTION:

EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND SCREENING WORK GROUP

A: BREAST CANCER WORK GROUP:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rafet Yiğitbaşı (Ministry of Health, Göztepe Training and Research Hospital, Chief Physician)
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mustafa Şahin (Vakıf Gureba Training and Research Hospital, Chief Physician/ General Surgery)
Dr. Muhsine Erdemol (Bakırköy Center for Early Diagnosis and Screening of Cancer)

B- CERVIX CANCER WORK GROUP:

Assoc. Prof.Dr. Ateş Karateke (Zeynep Kamil Obstetrics and Gynecology Training and Research Hospital/ Obstetrics and Gynecology)
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Gülkılık (Yenimahalle Obstetrics and Gynecology Training and Research Hospital/ Obstetrics and Gynecology)
Specialist Dr. Mehmet Uhri (Provincial Coordinator of Cancer Control)
Dr. Muhsine Erdemol (Bakırköy Center for Early Diagnosis and Screening of Cancer)
Dr. Nalan Yetkin (Directorate of Health, Mother and Child Health – Department of Family Planning)

TERTIARY PREVENTION:

1- CANCER TREATMENT AND ETHICS WORK GROUP:

Med. Oncologist Prof. Dr. Erkan Topuz (İstanbul University Oncology Institute/ Alternative Medicine)
Prof. Dr. İnci Ayan (İstanbul University Oncology Institute/ Pediatric Oncology)
Prof. Dr. Sevil Baybek (İstanbul University Oncology Institute)
Prof. Dr. Orhan Özturan (Ministry of Health, Haseki Training and Research Hospital)
Prof. Dr. Emin Darendeliler (İstanbul University Oncology Institute/ Radiation Oncology)
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fatma Tülin Kayhan (Vice Director of Health)
Specialist Dr. Nihal Dizdar (Kartal Training and Research Hospital, Radiation Oncology)
Specialist Dr. Gülsüm Önal (Directorate of Health, Unit of Patient Rights)

2- PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT AND TRAINING WORK GROUP:

Prof. Dr. İnci Ayan (İstanbul University Oncology Institute/ Pediatric Oncology)
Specialist Dr. Abdülkadir Tabo (Directorate of Health, Head of Department of Mental Health)
Specialist Dr. Mehmet Uhri (Provincial Coordinator of Cancer Control)
Specialist Dr. İbrahim Topçu (Directorate of Health, Department of Training)
Specialist Dr. Gülsüm Önal (Directorate of Health, Unit of Patient Rights)
Dr. Figen Yılmaz (Metropolitan Municipality/ Health Affairs)

3- COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE WORK GROUP:

Prof. Dr. Erkan Topuz (İstanbul University Oncology Institute)

Prof. Dr. İnci Ayan (İstanbul University Oncology Institute/ Pediatric
Oncology)
Prof. Dr. Adnan Aydın (İstanbul University Oncology Institute)
Prof. Dr. Ayten Altuntaş (Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Medicine,
Department of Deontology)
Asst. Prof. Murat Dinçer Çekin (Marmara University/ Faculty of
Health Training)
Rabi Baştürk (Turkish Temperance Society)