

# Awareness about colon cancer in University biology student.

## Abstract

Cancer is disease caused by abnormal growth of cells in a body of an individual. Malignancy in large intestine is termed as colon cancer. The objective of this study was to develop awareness among the university students. A questionnaire was developed comprising of 15 questions and 39 students filled that awareness survey questionnaire. After survey the result shows that majority of the students were aware about colon cancer while some were unaware about the disease. Hence we concluded that there is a need to develop awareness among the people but there were few reported cases of colon cancer.

**Keywords:** Cancer, malignancy, colon cancer

Volume 9 Issue 3 - 2018

**Muhammad Imran Qadir, Hafiza Sobia Khan**

Institute of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Pakistan

**Correspondence:** Muhammad Imran Qadir, Institute of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, Pakistan, Email [mrirranqadir@hotmail.com](mailto:mrirranqadir@hotmail.com)

**Received:** April 23, 2018 | **Published:** June 18, 2018

## Introduction

Cancer is uncontrolled division of cells anywhere in the body. Universally, every 1 in 6 persons died due to cancer, thus making it the second major cause of death. The new number of cases expected in next two decades is about 70%. So the cancer become the leading cause of death worldwide.<sup>1</sup> Colon cancer becomes the second major cause of death in females while in males it is considered as the third most common type of cancer.<sup>2</sup> The incidence of colon cancer is much more in developed countries when compared with developing countries.<sup>3</sup> According to an estimate the incidence of colon cancer increases 2-4 times in past few years.<sup>4</sup> However, public awareness and health care trials were insufficient not only in providing protection against colon cancer but also its detection in early stages.<sup>5</sup> The basic purpose of this study was to determine the awareness of university student about colon cancer.

## Methodology

A cross sectional study was carried among the University biology students and a questionnaire was developed (Table 1) to estimate the awareness among people about the disease. Table consists of about 15 questions. 39 students completely filled the questionnaire from BZU, 6 of them were males and 33 were females. The inclusion criteria for this study was students of M.Phil and exclusion criteria was not students of BS.

**Table 1** Questionnaire to evaluate awareness about etiology of colon cancer

| Colon cancer is a               | Yes | No |
|---------------------------------|-----|----|
| 1. Viral disease                |     |    |
| 2. Bacterial disease            |     |    |
| 3. Fungal disease               |     |    |
| 4. Genetic disease              |     |    |
| 5. Metabolic disease            |     |    |
| Ever suffered from colon cancer |     |    |
| 6. You                          |     |    |
| 7. Your family                  |     |    |
| 8. Your relative                |     |    |

| Colon cancer is a                      | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| 9. Your neighbor                       |     |    |
| 10. Your friend                        |     |    |
| Colon cancer is transmitted by         |     |    |
| 11. Contacts or blood transfusion      |     |    |
| 12. From parents to offspring          |     |    |
| Colon cancer may be treated by         |     |    |
| 13. Medicines                          |     |    |
| 14. Surgery                            |     |    |
| 15. Do not worry, it is easily curable |     |    |

## Results and discussion

Awareness of postgraduate students about colon cancer is given in Table 2. Out of 50 questionnaires 39 were completed and we include them in this analysis. The sample comprises 6 male students and 33 female students. About one third of the students were the residents or rural areas but all were post graduate students. According to awareness survey 16.6% males and 45.5% females and 39.35% said that colon cancer is a viral disease while 33.3% males, 63.6% females and 48.45% of the total students said that it is a bacterial disease. 16.6% males, 24.2% females and 20.4% of the students considered colon cancer as a fungal disease. While 16.6% males, 42.4% females and 29.5% of the total students were not agreed that the colon cancer is genetic or metabolic disease.

Table 3 comprise questions about the incidence of colon cancer in their family and friends. None of the student, their family and relatives were ever suffered from colon cancer. 16.6% males, 0% females and 8.3% of the total student's neighbors and friends were affected from colon cancer.

Table 4 contains questions that were asked by the biology students that either colon cancer is transmitted through blood transfusion or from parents to offsprings. 33.3% males, 12.1% females and 22.7% of the total students agreed that this type of cancer transmitted with contact or blood transfusion. 16.6% males, 36.3% females and 26.45% of the total students said colon cancer transferred from parents to offsprings.

Table 5 shows the result of questions which were asked by the students about the treatment of colon cancer. 100% males, 84.8% females and 92.2% of the total of 39 students said that it can be cured by medicines. 100% male students, 66.6% female students and 92.2%

of the total students agreed that colon cancer can be treated by the surgery treatment. While 100% male students, 94% female students and 97% of the total biology students were worried about the cure of this disease.

**Table 2** Awareness about etiology of colon cancer: views of university biology students

| Questions            | Male   |        | Female |        | Total  |        |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                      | Yes    | No     | Yes    | No     | Yes    | No     |
| 1. Viral disease     | 16.60% | 83.30% | 45.50% | 54.50% | 39.35% | 68.9   |
| 2. Bacterial disease | 33.30% | 66.60% | 63.60% | 36.30% | 48.45% | 51.55% |
| 3. Fungal disease    | 16.60% | 83.30% | 24.20% | 75.80% | 20.40% | 79.60% |
| 4. Genetic disease   | 16.60% | 83.30% | 42.40% | 57.60% | 29.50% | 70.50% |
| 5. Metabolic disease | 16.60% | 83.30% | 42.40% | 57.60% | 29.50% | 70.50% |

**Table 3** Awareness about etiology of colon cancer: views of university biology students

| Questions                       | Male  |       | Female |      | Total |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|------|-------|-------|
|                                 | Yes   | No    | Yes    | No   | Yes   | No    |
| Ever suffered from colon cancer |       |       |        |      |       |       |
| 1. You                          | 0.0%  | 100%  | 0.0%   | 100% | 0.0%  | 100%  |
| 2. Your family                  | 0.0%  | 100%  | 0.0%   | 100% | 0.0%  | 100%  |
| 3. Your relative                | 0.0%  | 100%  | 0.0%   | 100% | 0.0%  | 100%  |
| 4. Your neighbor                | 16.6% | 83.3% | 0.0%   | 100% | 8.3%  | 91.7% |
| 5. Your friend                  | 16.6% | 83.3% | 3.0%   | 97%  | 9.8%  | 90.2% |

**Table 4** Awareness about etiology of colon cancer: views of university biology students

| Questions                        | Male  |       | Female |       | Total  |        |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
|                                  | Yes   | No    | Yes    | No    | Yes    | No     |
| Colon cancer is transmitted by   |       |       |        |       |        |        |
| 1. Contacts or blood transfusion | 33.3% | 66.6% | 12.1%  | 87.9% | 22.7%  | 77.3%  |
| 2. From parents to offspring     | 16.6% | 83.4% | 36.3%  | 63.7% | 26.45% | 73.55% |

**Table 5** Awareness about etiology of colon cancer: views of university biology students

| Questions                             | Male  |       | Female |        | Total  |        |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                                       | Yes   | No    | Yes    | No     | Yes    | No     |
| Colon cancer may be treated by        |       |       |        |        |        |        |
| 1. Medicines                          | 100%  | 0.00% | 84.80% | 15.20% | 92.20% | 7.80%  |
| 2. Surgery                            | 100%  | 0.00% | 66.60% | 33.40% | 83.30% | 16.70% |
| 3. Do not worry, it is easily curable | 0.00% | 100%  | 6.00%  | 94%    | 3%     | 97%    |

## Conclusion

It was concluded from this study that the most of the university biology students were aware about colon cancer but some had poor level of knowledge. Only few cases of colon cancer were reported.

## Acknowledgements

None.

## Conflict of interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

## References

1. Torre LA, Siegel RL, Ward EM, et al. Global cancer incidence and mortality rates and trends—an update. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev.* 2016;25(1):16–27.
2. Lozano R, Naghavi M, Foreman K, et al. Global and regional mortality from 235 causes of death for 20 age groups in 1990 and 2010: a systematic analysis for the global burden of disease study 2010. *lancet.* 2012;380(9859):2095–2128.
3. Merika E, Saif M, Katz A, et al. Colon cancer vaccines: an update. *In vivo.* 2010;24(5):607–628.
4. Ng SC, Wong SH. Colorectal cancer screening in Asia. *British medical bulletin.* 2013;105:29–42.
5. Sung JJ, Lau JY, Goh K, et al. Increasing incidence of colorectal cancer in Asia: implications for screening. *The lancet oncology.* 2005;6(11):871–876.