

PRESS CLIPPING SHEET

PUBLICATION:	Egyptian Gazette
DATE:	31-May-2015
COUNTRY:	Egypt
CIRCULATION:	60,000
TITLE :	Better liver cancer treatment, less side effects
PAGE:	05
ARTICLE TYPE:	NGO News
REPORTER:	Staff Report

Better liver cancer treatment, less side effects

THE spread of colon tumours among young people in Egypt, starting from the age of 15, the reasons behind the phenomenon and new techniques to control liver tumours were highlighted during the fourth international conference to discuss tumours of the digestive system and the liver, held recently in Cairo. The conference also examined new methods to avoid the side effects of chemotherapy.

Dr Hisham el-Ghazali, Professor of Oncology at Ain Shams University, noted that pioneer oncologists from all over the world had come to the conference to evaluate the techniques that were being used for the first time in treating liver and digestive system tumours. This year, the conference focused on the genetic test to decide on the best colon tumour therapy for the various stages of disease, said Dr el-Ghazali. He added Microsatellite Instability (MSI) tests should be conducted, even in the second stage of colon tumours, to decide whether or not

the patient in question needed chemotherapy.

The phenomenon of colorectal cancer affecting 15-year-olds in Egypt has not been repeated anywhere else in the world, said Dr el-Ghazali. That is why Ain Shams University was now conducting a study to find out if the phenomenon was related to genetic or environmental factors, to the food the youngsters were eating, or to pollution.

Dr el-Ghazali, who is the Secretary General of the conference, said that colon tumours that spread to the liver and lungs now had a recovery rate of 70 per cent and they made up 30 per cent of the colon tumour cases in Egypt and worldwide. In 1990, the recovery rate was only one per cent. He noted that the choice of medication was based on an assessment of the health of each individual case and the size of the tumour. Studies have proved that adding targeted therapies led to higher recovery rates; so certain genetic tests (such as the RAS protein test), should be con-

ducted, to select the proper therapy, he added.

For his part Dr Osama Heta, Professor of Interventional Radiology, noted that the conference had gathered at one venue, various specialists in the field of liver tumours, which are the most common type of tumour. The specialists, who are leaders in the field of interventional radiology, internal diseases, surgery and nutrition, exchanged their ideas regarding therapy and the unification of treatment plans. Dr Heta pointed out that recent advances in the interventional radiological management of liver tumours included radioembolisation, which is based on injecting radioactive particles via catheter. These particles emit Beta rays into the tumour that leads to its destruction. In addition, when the recently developed, long-acting drugs were mixed with chemotherapy, they produced more efficient results, with less side-effects.

Dr Mahmoud el-Mitini said that liver cancer was the most common type of

tumour, because of the widespread incidence of Hepatitis C virus (HCV) cases. He added that the new medicines that had become available on the local market would reduce the spread of HCV in the next 10 years. He pointed out that about 400 liver transplants were carried out every year in Egypt and 30 per cent of them were conducted on liver cancer patients. Dr el-Mitini confirmed that preventive measures and regular tests to ensure the early detection of tumours often led to avoidance of the disease and increased the chances of complete recovery.

Dr Yasser Abd el-Kader, Professor of Oncology at Cairo University, noted that the government had provided expensive, modern targeted therapies as part of the health insurance system and the treatment funded by the State to improve recovery rates. "Targeted therapy is the treatment that attacks the carcinogenic cell and fixes the defect, without affecting the healthy cell," Dr Abd el-Kader explained.