

PRESS CLIPPING SHEET

PUBLICATION:	Egyptian Gazette
DATE:	21-February-2016
COUNTRY:	Egypt
CIRCULATION:	60,000
TITLE :	"Blood clots affect younger people here than globally"
PAGE:	05
ARTICLE TYPE:	NGO News
REPORTER:	Staff Report

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‘Blood clots affect younger people here than globally’

HAEMATOLOGY specialists have revealed that the rate of blood vessel clotting in Egypt is higher than that of global rates. In addition, people are affected by this at a younger age than that recorded globally.

This is a result of endogamy which contributes to the activation of genetic factors causing the formation clots, says Dr Amal el Beshlawi, Professor of Haematology, Kasr al Aini School of Medicine.

She said that lymphoma cancer affects 5,629 people annually in Egypt, causing 3,698 deaths every year.

Dr el Beshlawi said that lymphoma

patients get chemotherapy that achieves a 90 per cent recovery rate. It is provided free of charge whether through the health insurance system or at the expense of the the state.

She was speaking at a press conference organised by the Egyptian Society of Haematology, in collaboration with the Saudi Society of Haematology. It was held on the fringe of the Pan Arab Haematology Association (PAHA) Congress that took place recently in Cairo.

Dr Mervat Matter, Deputy Chairman of PAHA, pointed out that targeted therapy is one of the main therapies to cure

lymphoma, adding that combined with chemotherapy it could achieve recovery rates ranging between 50 and 90 per cent.

According to Dr Hanan Hamed, Professor of Haematology, Ain Shams University, patients in Egypt suffer from three problems. The first is related to diagnostic methods, the second is associated with insufficient centres to cure patients. These are meant to overcome waiting lists at the Demerdash and Kasr al-Aini hospitals, the Nasser Institute, and the National Cancer Institute. The third problem is the high price of medications.

Dr Mohamed Qary, Professor of Haematology, at King Abdel Aziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, said that new medications in the shape of tablets or injections could be used instead of saline solutions that are taken by the patients at the hospitals so that they can live their daily lives normally. He said that there were now drugs to decrease iron in the blood, especially for patients with thalassemia to avoid its influence on the liver, heart and pancreas.

Dr el Beshlawi noted that the PAAH congress included joint Egyptian-Italian research papers on genetic changes, molecular biology and new drugs.



DR MOAHMED el-Qary (1st L), Dr Amal el-Beshlawi and Dr Mervat Matter (R) attending a press conference held in Cairo recently.