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## 'Alarming increase' in most common liver cancer must be addressed: Doctors

Key risk factors for liver cancer are on the rise in Egypt though new treatments are saving lives, according to specialists Ingy Deit, Saturday 3 Nov 2012



Incidences of the most common type of liver cancer, Hepato cellular Carcinoma (HCC), have doubled in Egypt over the past 12 years, Dr AshrafOmar, a professor of gastroenterology at Cairo University, told Ahram Online at a conference on the disease Wednesday.

The annual conference, which was organised by the Egyptian Society for Liver Cancer (ESLC) and chaired by Dr Omar, ESLC secretary-general, examined liver cancer, the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide, the "alarming" increase of HCC in Egypt, new treatments available, and the role of the media in combating the disease.

Dr Omar pointed out that statistics show that HCC is the cause of between five and seven per 100,000 cases annually with a mortality rate of six per 100,000, reflecting a high disease fatality. The number has recently increased to 10 cases per 100,000, which put E gypt into the upper intermediate category of prevalence.

Omar confirmed that primary risk factors have been on the rise in Egypt, including H epatitis C, H epatitis B, exposure to Aflatoxin, a fungus found on badly stored grains, diabetes, obesity, and chronic alcohol consumption.

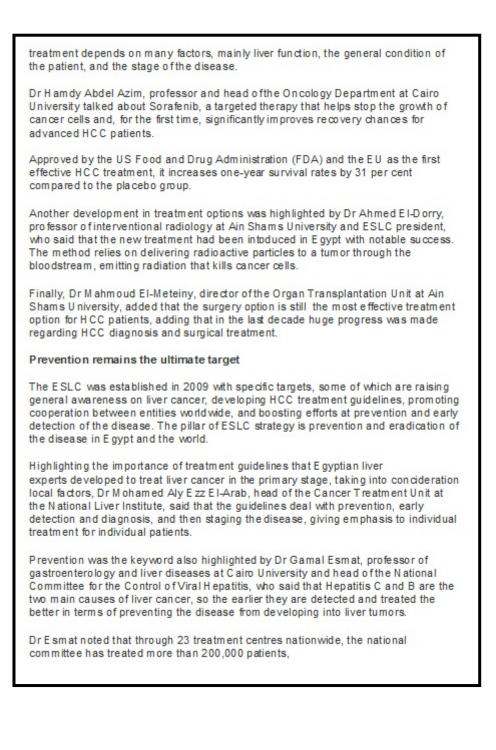
### Treatment options

The conference shed light on liver cancer treatment options, which include radiology, surgery, and ethanol injections, among others. It was underlined that the choice of





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# ESLC Apple View Party

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#### Media can make a difference

The responsibility of the media to convey health messages and raise awareness was one of the focuses of the meeting W ednesday.

"Shocking statistics in 2008 show that in Egypt 20 per cent of the people have never heard about Virus C; four per cent only ever made a blood test in that regard, and 50 per cent only already knew about their in fection and sought treatment — the others never bothered, "Dr E sm at pointed out.

"In a country where Hepatitis C, which is a leading factor of liver cancer, has such prevalence, this is a catastrophe," he added. "This is where the role of the media comes in, which we as doctors regard as a major partner in the fight against liver cancer."