Adequate Help for Patients with Cervical Cancer? The Referral System in Indonesia. A Descriptive Comparison Study in Four Provinces

Abstrak:

Background: The objectives are the quality of the diagnostic system and the referral for patients with a suspicion of cervical cancer. This research was done in four provinces in Indonesia in the framework of the Community-based Cancer Control Program in Indonesia. Methods: Focus Group Discussions with doctors from the district hospital and Primary Health Care doctors, nurses and midwives as well as interviews with employees from several governmental health departments and a literature study. Results: The referral for patients with a suspicion of cervical cancer works similar in the four provinces. It depends on the facilities available in the district hospital, whether the patient is helped there or referred to the provincial hospital. The facilities available in the district or provincial hospital differ much between the four provinces visited, although they are sufficient to help all patients with (a suspicion of) cervical cancer. Patients are not obliged to follow the referral system. Most cancer patients come to the health care services in a late stage of their disease. A lot of patients drop out to alternative health care. Most of the patients do not have enough money to pay for the treatment. These problems make curative treatment often very difficult. Conclusion: Education about cancer is very important as well as changes in financing of the health care system. Through the education patients are stimulated to seek health care in an earlier stage of their disease and to go to regular health care instead of alternative health care providers.

Keyword:

public health care system, chain of diagnosis and treatment, cervical cancer, Indonesia

Daftar Pustaka: